



ORINDA



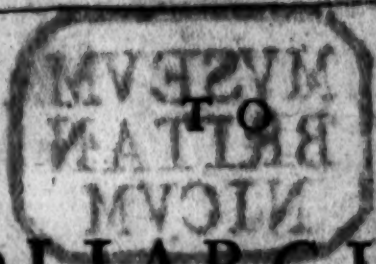
ORINDA



LETTERS

FROM

ORINDA



POLIARCHUS.

LONDON:

Printed by W. B. for Bernard Lintott  
at the Middle-Temple Gate in Fleet-  
street. 1705.

LETTERS

FROM

ORINDA



POLLARD

3 Ga

LONDON

Printed by W. B. for B. and J. in  
at the Middle-Temple Gate in Fleet-  
Street. 1705.



THE  
PREFACE.

**T**O persuade the World  
that what is here of-  
fer'd to publick View  
is the genuine Work of the  
matchless ORINDA, would  
be an unnecessary Labour in  
the Publisher, and a nauseous  
Trouble to the Reader. Any  
one who has a Nicety of  
A 3 Taste,

## *The Preface.*

Taste, or Judgment, may easily discern the following Papers to be the real Product of that Pen, which infinitely obliged us with so curious a Variety of Poems, that have procur'd themselves an universal Applause; and that her Writings in Prose deserve an equal Reputation, is no vain Conjecture. Her Qualifications for writing were as taking as could be desired, since she had the Happiness, in her Composures, to avoid the two Extremes, either of incorrect Looseness in her Stile, or starch'd Affectation. To praise her Poems, after they have



## *The Preface.*

have stood the Test of COWLEY's and ROSECOMON's Examination, and been so deservedly commended by those accurate Judges, and have been receiv'd by all who are Friends to the Muses, would be like the Whispering in a general Shout; nor need we any Recommendation of these Letters, since they are so able to make their own Panegyrick. They were the effect of an happy Intimacy between her self and the late famous POLIARCHUS, and are an admirable Pattern for the pleasing Correspondence of a virtuous Friendship: They

## The Preface

will sufficiently instruct us how an intercourse of writing, between Persons of different Sexes, ought to be managed, with Delight and Innocence; and teach the World, not to load such a Commerce with Censure and Detraction, when 'tis remov'd at such a distance from even the Appearance of Guilt. Things of this nature, coming from so great a Mistress of Thought and Expression as ORINDA, and address'd to so polite a Person as POLIARCHUS, cannot but challenge our Regard, and engage our Esteem. 'Tis very

unac-



## *The Preface.*

unaccountable, when we have such Examples of Excellency among our selves, that the *French* Writers, in the Epistolary Way, should be so frequently translated by us. Whoever reads the ensuing Sheets carefully, will find more Sense, Energy and Life here, than in Volumes of some very reputed Authors of theirs ; but we will not any longer offer an Injury to the Reader, by keeping him from the View of that which will so agreeably entertain him, and which, when candidly examin'd, will make all Apologies useless.

TO

## The Preface.

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such Examples of Excellen-  
cy among our selves, that  
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Reader, by keeping him from  
the View of that which will so  
agreeably entertain him, and  
which, when candidly ex-  
amined, will make all Ap-  
ologies useless.

To the Publisher

If I should have been from this Country I had

not been able to have done so

And by their Commendation I have

And by their Commendation I have

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OF  
*Orinda's Letters:*

UPON

His requesting a commendatory Copy of Verses.

Wrote *ex tempore*.

Ease to request what will be needless writ,

No Man's so rude to damn a Lady's Wit:

Praises of course to the fair Sex belong,

We complement the Ladies right or wrong:

But she'll no Advocate, no Favour need,

May the sweet Orator, her self, but plead;

If

## To the Publisher

*If Female Wits are from this Grievance freed,  
To be condemn'd before their Works are read,  
Hard Fate of Men ! hence first the Trade began  
For Poets publicly to praise the Man ;  
And by their Commendations preengage  
The Readers Hearts, and quell the Criticks  
(Rage.*

*With their own native Charms are Women bright,  
Nor need the Fair to shine with borrow'd Light.  
You answer, Criticks so uncivil are,*

*They no Regard to Sex or Beauty bear :  
All Authors must their envious Rage expect,  
Who no Distinctions make, no Charms respect,  
True; yet that servile Tribe who follow  
Fame,*

*And know no Reason why they like or blame,  
Must surely reverence great ORINDA's Name.)*

*When COWLEY's and ROSEMON's Judgment  
(Stands  
Before her other Works, and Praise commands,  
With all the num'rous Poets of that Age,  
Who with united Wit for her engage,  
Compleat*



# OF ORINDA'S Letters. I.

Compleat her Honours with their general Praise,  
For Numbers always greatest Glory raise,  
As Heav'n from Sun or Moon less Charms can  
(boast)  
Than when adorn'd by all the heav'nly Host.

Some may upon a different View commend,  
Ambition rules while Friendship they pretend,  
Their own, not Author's Credit they would raise,  
And while they seem to give, are seeking Praise.  
My Muse on no such sordid Motive sings,  
Sincere Respect has lent her Voice and Wings,  
O were my Fancy equal to my Theme!  
And could I praise as highly as esteem,  
No Person merits more our just Applause  
Than she who wrote so well in Friendship's  
(Cause)

From whose familiar way of writing's shewn,  
How she her well-chosen Friend's Affections won;  
In whose endearing Words as well as Mind,  
Judgment and Virtue with true Wit are join'd;  
Both chaste and free, facetious without Vice,  
In all her Morals strict, yet not precise.

Who

# To the Publisher, &c.

Who cou'd ev'n Mirib and Bus'ness reconcile,  
And always wrote in a diverting Style:

From her may Ladies learn how to indite

What Letters Friends to absent Friends should

(write,

Sincere, obliging, full of Love and Truth,

Which should not rudely slight nor flatt'ring

(sooth:

Nor stiff, but gay, both easle and gentle

(Formality is ever want of Skill:)

Nor fear to imitate whate'er she wrote,

As modest in her Word as in her Thought;

While by this means may Absence be endur'd,

And between distant Friends true Love see

(cur'd.

Jesús College Cambridge,

20 March 1705.

JA. GARDINER.

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phlets, &c.

# LETTERS

FROM

*Orinda to Poliarchus.*

## LETTER I.

**T**HOU' I know, most honour'd POLIARCHUS, that you delight more in conferring Favours, than in receiving Acknowledgments; and tho' the highest I could make, would prove not only unsuitable to my Obligations,

tions, and the sense I have of them; but such as in themselves would stand in need of a new Favour; I mean, your Pardon: Yet I cannot satisfy my self with a total Silence, where I ought to say and do so much, notwithstanding that my own Defects, and the Cruelty of Fate have allow'd me so small a Capacity of acquitting my self of either: I am not ignorant that it will signify but little to tell you, that I am the Person in the World the most deeply sensible of your Favours; and that I wish with no less Passion, than (for ought I perceive) Impossibility, to be in some way able to deserve the least of them: But if you will oblige so like a God, you cannot be surpriz'd, if you find no other Requital than Thanks, and even these too but very imperfect: I beseech you  
never-



Orinda to Poliarchus. 3

nevertheless to accept mine with the utmost Zeal and Sincerity with which I can return them ; and (what will appear a strange Confidence after this ingenuous Confession) to continue me that Friendship, which can alone reward it self in the Nobleness of its own Intentions ; and whereto I lay no other Claim than that of your Promise only, which I look on to be a greater Security than an Act of Parliament ; as I really esteem the Advantage I reap by it to be a nobler Gift than any that is granted us in *Magna Charta*. I know I run the Hazard of losing it, by entertaining you thus long without sending you News from the Person of whom you most desire to hear ; but had I not the vast Reason I have to write in my own behalf, yet so great is my Regard for POLIARCHUS,

4 *Letters from*

that I am loath to send him any unwelcome News; and indeed such is CALANTHE'S Cruelty, that I have none that will be pleasing to impart. But this is an Affair fitter to be discours'd of at more freedom than this distance will allow; and I have besides some other Reasons that make me wish for an Hour's Conversation with you before I come to Town. To Morrow my Uncle TREVOR promis'd to send Sir EVAN'S Horses to bring me to LONDON in LUCASIA'S Coach; but till my Brother HECTOR, who is now there, returns, I know not whether I shall accept of that Opportunity. However, if you can be persuaded that it will not be inconvenient for you to take two or three Hours of fresh Air, you will either meet me on the Road, or find me here; and thus we shall both of us have the

Satisf-



# Orinda to Poliarchus. 3

Satisfaction Sir ROGER in the  
Play wanted, of not grieving alone.  
I am so call'd on to conclude, that  
I can add no more, but that I am  
with as much Integrity as infinite  
Reason, &c.

Action, 6 Dec.  
1661.

ORINDA.

B 3

LETTER

## LETTER II.

**T**HE great Disturbance you were in when you went hence, has given me the unhappy Occasion, and the high and just Concern I have for you, has made me take the Resolution to trouble you with my most humble and earnest Request to resist the Attempts your present Passion is like to make on your Quiet, before it grow too imperious to be check'd by the Powers either of Reason or Friendship. There is nothing more easie than to captivate ones self to Love and Grief; and no more evident Mark of a great Soul than to avoid those Bondages: I hope, therefore, you will not think it altogether unbecoming the Friendship  
you

Orinda to Poliarchus. 7

you have given me leave to profess  
for you, to intreat you to overcome  
those Passions, and not give way to  
Melancholy, which will unhinge  
your excellent Temper, and bring  
so great a Cloud on the Happiness  
of your Friends, which chiefly de-  
pends on your Repose and Con-  
versation. Consider for how ma-  
ny important Interests you are re-  
sponsible, and exert all the Powers  
of Reason with which your excel-  
lent Judgment abounds, to shake  
off your Sorrows, and live chear-  
fully and long the Delight of all  
who have the Honour of your Ac-  
quaintance: Of which happy Num-  
ber, tho' I am but one of the la-  
test, yet that Misfortune is in some  
measure abated by so perfect an  
Esteem for you, that I cannot for-  
bear accosting you with an odd sort  
of Compliment; and assure you,

8 *Letters from* O

that I neither do nor can honour  
you one jot the more on account  
of the many Favours I have re-  
ceiv'd from you; for the sense I  
have entertain'd of your Merit  
cannot be increas'd by any Obli-  
gations you can lay upon me. I  
must indeed acknowledge them  
with perpetual Blushes, being ut-  
terly incapable of deserving the  
least of them; yet the Regard,  
Esteem and Honour I shall ever  
have for POLIARCHUS, have some-  
thing more great and noble both  
for their Cause and Object, I mean,  
your excellent Constitution of  
Mind; which I have admir'd in a  
much greater Proportion than I  
am capable of comprehending it in;  
and this it is that has made me take  
the Resolution of being while I  
live, &c.

9th Decemb. 1661.

ORINDAO

I am



Orinda .o Poliarchus. 69

I am persuaded that I need not desire your Care in concealing your having seen any of CALANTHE's Letters to me ; and add this Caution, lest you should unawares write any thing to her that might give her the least Cause to suspect you have.

## LETTER III.

**W**Hat shall I say, where begin, and when make an end of Acknowledgments? None certainly that can say so little, ever ow'd so much; and I can say yet less, because I am so much oblig'd; for the fulness of my Soul stops up all the Passages of Expression, as a Phial too full hinders its own vent. Thus you are at least rid of one Trouble, I mean, of reading Thanks as insignificant as my former Importunities have been troublesome. However, Sir, what I cannot express, I shall never forget; and I am now going to a Person, who must participate in the Obligation as he does in the Benefit; and who deceives me extremely, if he  
he



Orinda to Poliarchus. 11

he have not conceiv'd so becoming a sense of your Favours, as shall dispose him to hazard the loss of all that by your means has been preserv'd to him (and that is all that can be dear to a Gentleman) rather than let slip the least Opportunity of expressing his Gratitude, whenever his good Fortune shall throw it in his way. But I know you delight more in obliging, than in being told of it; and therefore I shall rather suppress my own Inclination, than do any thing that might clash with yours: Permit me only to tell you that we are come safe to GLOUCESTER, where my Uncle gave me hopes that I should have heard from you; but you are in the right to take breath a while from the very remembrance of a Person, who has been so extremely troublesome to you; However, you will not be  
able

able to enjoy that Repose long ; for your own generous Promise, and my importunate claiming it, will force you to afford some of those Minutes, which are so dear to your self, and useful to the World, to oblige me in my Hermitage with the assurance that I am, in spite of all your Reasons to the contrary, continu'd in your Friendship. I know that to be a bold Expression, but as nothing less could have produc'd such Testimony of your Concern for me as I have already receiv'd, so too nothing less shall satisfy me for the future. I hope my Brother PHILIPS has waited on you before now, with an account of the Affair we were discoursing of concerning WISTON ; wherein I heartily wish you as much Success, as I had in mine that was more doubtful, and that it were in my Power to contribute

Orinda to Poliarchus. 13

bute to this as much as you did to that. I confess there is more of Selfishness in this Desire than becomes your Friend, since I own my self inclin'd to wish it the more eagerly, because it flatters me with a possibility of seeing you in a place, where I may, in a more becoming manner than hitherto I have been able, tho' after all very unsuitably to your Merit and my Obligements, express the great Satisfaction I take in the Enjoyment of your Conversation. Be pleas'd to keep me alive in the Memory of all our Friends, but chiefly in your own, which is an Estate that shall ever be most highly priz'd by

Gloucester, 6 Mar.  
1661

Your, &c.

ORINDA.  
LETTER



## LETTER IV.

I Had the Honour of receiving your Letter as soon as I came to my own House; and, after all the Preparation you were pleas'd to give me, I had the Patience to read the *English*, and the Pleasure to read the *French* Present you sent me; and, to observe your Method, will treat of the first first; and tell you, that I am extremely pleas'd with your ingenious Contrivance in making a Person, who stands in so much need of your Pardon, be once in a Capacity of forgiving you; and by thus abusing me, putting it to the Trial, whether I have profited by the Example of your Generosity: Yes Sir, I have, and much more freely forgive your sending



Orinda to Poliarchus. 15

ding me the *Engliff*, than your interlining the *French* Paper, which I take as the far greater Affront. But the Disappointment of the Expectation you first rais'd, and the being put out of Countenance afterwards, are not difficult to be supported from you, who have heap'd so many Favours on me, that your very Injuries are obliging. But you will expect I should give you my Thoughts of your Present. I had not read the *Engliff* half through, but I was ready to say of it as LUCASIA did t'other day of a Harper, who play'd horridly out of Tune, *Will not this honest Man go to Dinner?* Which all the Company agreed to be the most civil way of turning him out of the Room that ever he had met with. I verily believe there are some deep Philosophical Notions in it, and  
without

without doubt the Gentleman Colonel PHILIPS told us of, who had reduc'd all Divinity to Demonstration, and pretended to solve all Controversies in a quarter of an hour, was near a-kin to this Author; but I, you know very well, have been of late so tormented with Disputes on that Subject, that I fairly threw it by, to consider the Countess of SUZA's Elegy, which is indeed one of the finest Poems of that nature I ever read; the Thoughts are great and noble, and represent to the Life the vastness of her excellent Soul; the Language is pure, and hardly to be parallell'd. I return you many Thanks for it, and assure you I will always keep it with a Value worthy of the Author, who must needs be an extraordinary Woman, and of the Sender, who is to me above all  
the

Orinda to Poliarchus. 87

the Flights of Panegyrick. I found my ANTENOR so full of the sense of your Goodness towards him, that in the midst of his Satisfaction it gave him no small disquiet to consider, that he should never be able by any Action of his Life to express his infinite Gratitude for the Care you were pleas'd to take of his Concerns; and indeed I my self am blushing to give you these empty Returns for so many substantial Kindnesses. I would avoid them had I any other way to gain your belief, how much he and I would do and suffer to convince you of the thousandth part of the immense Esteem and Honour we have for you. But how, POLIARCHUS, can you be so infinitely good, as to tell me you miss my Company? Are you in need of the Mortifications you receiv'd by it? They

C

may



indeed be proper for this holy time of *Lent*; otherwise the not being oblig'd to go every day to the Lobby before seven in the Morning, the Enjoyment of your more deserving Friends at Evenings, and conversing with your Books; the not being almost under a necessity of going Abroad in all Weathers to a Dog-hole, to find one who gave you nothing but Importunity and Disturbance, and robb'd you of your Quiet, must needs have afforded you more real Satisfaction. But indeed, Sir, no ordinary Reasons could have prevail'd with me to permit your undergoing so many Hardships on my account; and but that the neglect of my Duty to ANTENOR would have render'd me more unworthy of your Esteem, I could never have prevail'd with my self to have given  
you



## Orinda to Poliarchus. 19

you so great and so frequent Troubles in his behalf. I find Lucasia here notwithstanding all her Threatnings to be gone; but she has stay'd for me so long, that she has but very little time left to stay with me. I deliver'd her your Letter and Present, which she was much out of countenance to receive; having, as she says her self, been already so often and so much oblig'd both on her own account and mine. I assur'd her likewise of what you commanded me, and believe she will give you an Answer of it her self. This was our Post-day from LONDON, and I have Letters from several Hands, but none from you, which troubles me on a double account; first, for want of the Satisfaction it would have been to hear from you; and then for fear your Silence was occasion'd by the

Disturbance you are in for the Loss  
of my Lady CORNBURY, whose Death  
is here much lamented. But I will  
say no more at present, lest my  
Letters should be as troublesome  
to you as my personal Conversa-  
tion, and discourage you from al-  
lowing me the Honour of your  
Correspondence, which I beg of  
you to believe shall ever be valu'd  
above all Expression by, &c.

Cardigan Priory,

Mar. 18, 1661.

**ORINDA**

**LETTER**

LETTER V.

**T**IS now *Good-Friday*, and  
a Scruple of Conscience has  
seiz'd me, whether in a time of so  
enjoin'd a Penance, I ought to give  
my self so much Satisfaction as to  
write to you ; but since I had the  
Honour of receiving a Letter from  
you last Post, I must have the Ju-  
stice to acknowledge it this ; and  
besides, to confess the Truth, there  
is so much got by your Correspon-  
dence, and mine is so troublesome  
to every one, that I dare not omit  
a Post, lest I should give you that  
just Occasion of avoiding to oblige  
me the next. You see Interest go-  
verns me as well as all the World ;  
and if it did not, I perceive so much  
of it in the carrying on of an Affair,

wherein a Friend of ours is nearly concern'd, that it cannot be expected I should scape the Infection. A Relation of mine, who had travell'd in foreign Countries, was often wont to say, *Interesse è tutto il Mondo, e così son io, All the World is made up of Interest, and so am I.* But I own I cannot find in my Heart to repent of mine, while it has in view so great an Advantage as your Conversation, which deserves to be coveted upon the most rigid Terms that can be propos'd; how much more then upon those you are pleas'd to offer, of declining Compliments, which as I am very unable to make, so the best of them would fall very short of the Obligation you have laid upon me, and of the Esteem I shall ever have for you. And to give you a convincing Proof that I intend to banish all Ceremony,



Orinda to Polixarchus. 23.

Ceremony, I will frankly tell you,  
that you should not get rid of me  
at this time upon so easie Terms as  
you do; but that the Intentions I  
have for next Sunday take me off  
from enlarging now. This, I  
know, will procure Pardon at your  
Hands for my breach of Promise  
(or Threatning shall I call it?) in  
my last, that you should have a  
Relation at large of the Affair you  
know of, from, &c.

22 March 1662.

ORINDA.

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C 4

LETTER

## LETTER VI.

**Y**OURS, most generous POLLAR-  
CHUS, I receiv'd with a Joy  
that such a Happiness claims from  
every body; and so much the more  
from me than from the rest of the  
World, by how much I deserve it  
less. But 'tis in some measure a  
Justice in you to afford me your  
Correspondence, since without it  
the great Advantages I reap'd in  
conversing with you would have  
been injurious to me, in rendring  
me dissatisfy'd with my present con-  
dition; and I could never, without  
the Relief your Letters bring me, have  
been able to reconcile my self to a  
place which deprives me of so desi-  
rable a Conversation as yours: Nor  
could my beloved Rocks and Rivers,  
which

Orinda to Polarchus. 25

which were formerly my best Entertainment, have given me any Satisfaction without hearing from you. But now I can much better content my self in that Solitude, which you are so generously pleas'd to sweeten, by assuring me that I have still so considerable a Share in your Friendship, in spite of all my Occasions of tiring it, and all my Incapacities of deserving it. I most humbly thank you for all your News, and for your *Italian Postscript*, which I perfectly understand, but am not yet able to answer you in that Tongue; in time I may, and till then be pleas'd to make use of it in whatever you intend should be private; for if I should be importun'd by CALANTHE or the Uncle, to shew your Letters, I might then explain them as I thought fit. I writ something to  
you

you in *French* concerning her, and if I could tell you all that pass'd between her and me, I should make you at once smile, frown and wonder. For would it not indeed produce all those different Effects to see a Person of Discretion industriously put on needless Fetters to a Relation, and then play with them as Ornaments; nay, take it heinously, if every one does not wink at it? To convince you that *CALANTHE* did almost downright beg me to countenance what she intended, I must tell you, that tho' I had always spoken as respectfully as I could of the Person of *MEMNON*, yet when I told her the Story of the Countess, that pretended I was to have a thousand Pounds for speaking in his behalf, she with a scornful Smile reply'd, *And you deserve it largely, for you speak extremely for him.*

Imagine,



Orinda to Polixarchus. 87

Imagine, Sir, how I was surpris'd  
to hear this from her; however I  
told her, *That a thousand Worlds*  
*could not bribe me to speak for him,*  
*if I thought it not for her good.* Think  
you so, says she: Upon which I told  
her, *she was the best Judge.* I look  
on him, she then reply'd, *to be a*  
*very honest Man, and believe you to*  
*have such Obligations to him, that*  
*you ought in Gratitude to do more for*  
*him than you do.* I answer'd, *That*  
*if I were so mercenary as to speak for*  
*them that had most oblig'd me, there*  
*are others in whose behalf I ought*  
*likewise to imploy my Rhetorick.* At  
this she blush'd for Madness, and  
would not answer me a word, and  
so we parted, both of us vex'd and  
angry enough. We have several  
times since been talking of the same  
Affair, and she constantly tells me,  
*That she has more Inclination to him*  
*than*

than to all the rest of Mankind, but that she cannot persuade her self to be a Mother-in-law. And she is always reproaching me with my Indifference and little Care of what becomes of her, since I have left off speaking to her in MEMNON's behalf. I told her, I did not approve her Uncle's persecuting her as he did, and therefore would not be guilty of the like Importunity my self. She answer'd, I know not whether he has persecuted you, but I am sure he has not done so to me. I reply'd, That I must be both blind and deaf to believe what she told me. This put her again into a Passion; and, in short, I know not how to behave my self any longer towards her in that Affair, without creating Uneasinesses both to her and my self. Next Week, if Health and Weather permit, ANTENOR and I shall go  
to

# Orinda to Poliarchus. 29

to LANDSHIPPING, and there I shall find some Opportunity of letting you know how Matters go on, and will continue to give you Troubles of this kind, till either your Commands to the contrary, or your Silence forbid me, which I hope neither of them ever will; tho' it looks as if I pretended a Privilege to torment you, and were resolv'd, that you should not have so much as a breathing time allow'd you by, &c.

Priory of Cardigan,  
4 April 1662.

ORINDA.

LETTER

## LETTER VII

**T**HE English Copy you sent me in Company of *Madam de Suza's* Elegy is a Debt that has ever since been burthensome to my Conscience; for 'tis my Principle to pay what I can; and tho' I owe you so much that Insolvency must ever be my Plea, yet I am desirous to give you some Proof that my Intentions are honest, and that I would quit Scores with you if I could. To this end I have search'd my Cabinet for some Present to return you by way of Gratitude for yours; and that I might do it the more generously, I have found this private Hand to convey it to you; for 'tis in my Opinion unjust to make the Receiver pay for the Carriage of a Token. *The Apology*  
for



Orinda to Poliarchus. 31

for *Women* is so obliging to our Sex, that I could do no less than send it to POLLARCHUS, who has so great a Value for us; and, I doubt not, will have a particular Regard for this Paper, when he knows the Author of it to be the same that has been pleas'd to bestow the Favour of so many Corrections upon Mr. BAGSHAW; and when you have perus'd it, I believe 'twill be difficult for you to determine, whether Women or Presbyterians owe Mr. L'ESTRANGE the greater Veneration; but if you will have my Opinion in this Affair, we are more oblig'd to him than they, because he bestows more of his Wit upon us, and commends us implicitly for a Virtue, of which I am confident he never felt the Effects; for I am persuaded no Woman was ever kind enough to him, to give him Reason to tax her with Inconstancy; but

if

if there have been such a PHOENIX, I think she richly deserves this his Acknowledgment. The other Paper, you will find, expounds it self, and will very much disappoint me if it does not make you smile; but when it has done that Service, pray keep it from doing the like to any body else; for such are my Respects for your Neighbour my Lady ASHTON, that I would not have her think that I expose any thing of her Brother's, especially when 'twas, as you see, design'd to express so high an Esteem for me. The Bearer will let me say no more, and between me and my two Authors, I fear I have already said enough to need a greater Pardon than I will ever beg from a Person who allows me the Honour of subscribing my self, &c.

April 8. 1662.

ORINDA.

LETTER

## LETTER VIII.

I Gave you so tedious a Trouble in my last, that I ought to make you some Amends by the Shortness of this; and therefore shall only thank you for the Care you take to improve me in the *Italian*, by writing to me in that Language: I understood all your Letter at first sight; and immediately set my self to read *Gli Mascherati*, and went thro' it likewise without any Hesitation; so that I now despair of no Prose, but find I am but half-knowing in that Tongue, till I can master the Verse too, and that is my present Study. In your next pray send me the two Songs you once gave me: One begins thus, *E ne piu brami*; the other is call'd, *il*

D

Nocchiere

*Noechiere errante* : I have lost the Book in which I had written them, and they were extremely pleasing to me on more Scores than one. And now I am on this Subject, I must be so civil as to thank you for your Promise concerning *Le Bureau d'Adresse* and *Les Commentaires Royaux*. Believe me, I had Grace enough to blush when I read it, having been oblig'd in that kind to such an Excess already, that I know not with what Face to receive, much less to beg any more Favours of that nature from you. I am now at LANDSHIPPING with LUCASIA, who desires you to believe she is much your Servant, and thanks you for your last Favour, which I believe she will answer when a piece of Needle-work, to which she is now wholly devoted, will give her leave : But I shall be as tiresome to  
you



you with this Dulness, as she is to me with that Imployment. I say nothing now concerning the Election, having enlarg'd so much on that Subject in my last; only this, 'twill either be determin'd in two or three days, or (which I rather wish) delay'd till next Session; for ANTENOR's Witnesses having been so lately at LONDON eight Weeks to no purpose, were not willing to come again till they heard there was a necessity for it; and my Brother PHILIPS has writ word, that you were of Opinion their Journey might be spar'd: But now I hear the Adjournment is uncertain, which puts me into an Alarm concerning the Event of our Business, none of the Witnesses on our side being in Town. ANTENOR was not summon'd till *Thursday* noon last, and certainly that is scarce timely Notice

# 36 *Letters from*

to send Witnesses two hundred  
Miles by this day seven-night. But  
since the Cause is just, and you  
will espouse it, the Success shall  
nevèr be despair'd of by, &c.

April 12. 1662

ORINDA.

LETTER

LETTER IX.

**Y**OU see, most generous POLI-  
ARCHUS, that your repeated  
Commands have at length compell'd  
a very melancholy Muse to appear  
in a more chearful Dress than she  
usually wears ; and tho' you will  
find by the Unhappiness of the Ex-  
pressions in the enclos'd Copy of  
Verses, that the Muses have been  
as unkind to me, as the Committee  
of Privileges were to ANTENOR ; yet  
I am resolv'd to give you this Testi-  
mony, that I can deny you nothing  
in my Power, since I thus expose  
my Frailties to you. I confess much  
of the Gallantry of that Action is  
abated by the Knowledge I have to  
whom I send this Poem ; and that  
you are so much my Friend, that it

shall not be seen at Court, till you have first put it in a better Dress, which I know you will do, if it be capable of Improvement; if it be not, commit it to the Flames, with this assurance, That 'twas want of Power, not of Will, that prevented you from being better regal'd. If it passes your Judgment in any degree, let me have your Remarks upon it, and I will correct it by them, and send the Dutches another Copy, in obedience to the Commands she was pleas'd to lay upon me, that I should let her see all my Trifles of this nature. I have been told, that when her Highness saw my Elegy on the Queen of BOHEMIA, she graciously said, it surpriz'd her. The Post is just upon going, otherwise this Paper should be fill'd with a certain Subject that would please me if not you. I can only add, that we  
wanted



Orinda to Poliarchus. 39

wanted your Presence at our Hearing on *Tuesday* was seven-night; for had our Affair been impartially heard by the Committee, 'tis impossible we should have been so severely handled. I hope we shall find more Justice from the House when the Report comes to be made: If your Affairs will permit you to be in Town I cannot question it. The happy Lover is come hither this day, LUCASIA and ANTENOR are your humble Servants, and so is likewise more than all the World besides,

Landshipping,  
May 3. 1662.

*Your faithful Valentine,*

ORINDA,

4 LETTER

## LETTER X.

I Have deferr'd writing a Post longer than I ought, that you might first receive from other Hands the News this Letter brings you, that so it might be no News to you; for tho' I know you have long expected, and prepar'd your self for the Blow; yet I am so well acquainted with the Temper of your Soul, as to have cause to believe, that you have still so much left in you of the Lover, or at least of the Friend, that you cannot hear of LUCASIA's being marry'd without some Disturbance; which will, I fear, be increas'd, when you know that her going to IRELAND is so hasten'd, that she will, I believe, be there in three Weeks. I thought to

Orinda to Poliarchus. 41

to have given you a large Account how this Affair came to be spur'd on so fast, but have not time to tell you any thing now, only that the Importunity of Sir THOMAS HAMMER and his Lady, join'd to the pressing Instances of her other Relations here, compell'd her in a manner to a Hurry, which I dare say she her self never intended; and thus on *Sunday* last the Ceremony was perform'd to the great Satisfaction of them all: *For I alone of all the Company was out of Humour; nay, I was vex'd to that degree, that I could not disguise my Concern, which many of them were surpriz'd to see, and spoke to me of it; but my Grief was too deeply rooted to be cur'd with Words.* Believe me, dear POLIARCHUS, I have wept so much, that my Eyes almost refuse me this present Service: But I will say no more of it

it now. I am resolv'd to write each Circumstance of this Affair to our Friend ROSANIA, from whom you shall know all, and therefore pray defer your Censury till then. I never wish'd my self so much a Philosopher as now, that I might be in a Temper sedate enough to say any thing that might in some measure alleviate your Grievs: But indeed, POLIARCHUS, I am so afflicted my self, that 'twould be in vain for me to offer at the Comfort of another. As for your Share in this Loss, I hope you prepar'd your self much better to receive it, than I did to suffer mine: *Sono ben altri infelici nell' amore:* And I know you are too wise to need any Consolation from any but your self, and that you had laid in a Stock of Patience before-hand. Had I done so too, I had sav'd my self much Disquiet; yet when I reflect



Orinda to Poliarchus. 43

flect that all our Regret in this Case is in vain, I begin to be a little satisfy'd, and often repeat to my self these words of Dr. HAMMOND, *When will you begin to trust God, and permit him to govern the World?* You have allow'd my Loss to be greater than your own, and therefore I will expect that Consolation from you, that I am unable to give my self, or you any other way, than by putting you in mind, that I am much more unfortunate than you. As for LUCASIA, why should we be more concern'd for her than she is for her self, or than her nearest Relations. I am now taught by Experience, that 'tis a very thankless Office, to have too much Regard for the Interest of our Friends, when they themselves have a mind to wave it; and we must say of this, as of other Providences,

Che

44 *Letters from*

*Che le Cose del Ciel sol colui vede,  
Cbi ferra gli Occhi, e crede.*

Let us do so on this account, and believe that so sweet a Creature cannot be injur'd by any thing that has the least sense of Humanity; nor so much Piety as hers be forsaken by the Divine Providence. May she ever be as happy, as I am otherwise, and as free from all Trouble and Grief, as she soon will be from the sight of mine. I can say no more, my time is so little and my Grief so great; but whithersoever that transports me, tho' even to my Grave, I beseech you get the Victory over yours, and be assur'd that I am to my last Gasp, &c.

Landshipping,  
May 17. 1662.

ORINDA.

LETTER

## LETTER XI.

**A**Bout a Fortnight ago I acquainted you that LUCASIA was marry'd, and had taken a sudden Resolution to be going for IRELAND; since that I have received a Letter from you dated at PORTSMOUTH, giving me the full Relation of the Queen's Arrival; which you have so wonderfully describ'd in Prose, that I doubt very much whether it can be equall'd by any of our Poets in Verse. I thank you for it, and for the Care you take to improve me in the *Italian*, which I am the more assiduous in, because you first encourag'd me to undertake it. But I must now inform you where I am, and upon what Score I am here. That I am at a  
Place

Place called PIGSARRED the Date of my Letter informs you; and the Reason of my being here will be no Mystery to you, who are no Stranger to the great Friendship I have for the Priencefs CALANTHE, which render'd it impossible for me to let her cross the Seas into a foreign Kingdom without my Company: Even ANTENOR himself was of opinion, that in regard of the long Intimacy that had been between us, I could do no less than see her safe to her Husband's House; and I my self was very desirous to share with her in all the Hazards of the Voyage, and to see the Places and Persons where and with whom she is now to live and converse; all which the Doctor and some other of MEMNON's Relations had extoll'd to the very Skies. And this I was the rather inclin'd to do, being convinc'd that it would contribute



Orinda to Poliarchus. 47

bute very much to my Quiet to know where and with whom she was to spend the Remainder of her Days. The Passage of the Sea is not in the least dreadful to my Apprehension, since it is for the Love of her that I undertake the Danger. When I have tarry'd there a while, I shall return home with a heavy Heart; but with the Satisfaction nevertheless, that I have discharg'd my Duty to my Friend, whose Loss I shall eternally regret. I am continually thinking of what BRENNORALT says in the Play, I will deserve her tho' I never gain her. There is a secret Pleasure in doing ones Duty. I have written a long Letter of all the Particulars of this Marriage to our fair Friend ROSANIA, and desir'd her to communicate it to you, so that of her you may be inform'd of all the Circumstances more at large than I can now tell you.

I see

I see no Alteration either in her Husband's Humour or Mien, but in my Opinion he behaves himself more despotically towards her than becomes him, But all this is under the Rose, and I would have kept it to my self; did I not repose an entire Confidence in you; for 'tis too late now for us to find Faults; the Business is over, and we must be satisfy'd, and for her sake, who will be eternally dear to us, put the best Face on every thing. She pretends to be the most satisfy'd Creature in the World, and is very much concern'd when she sees me melancholy. She tells all of us she is extremely happy, and that all that love her ought to take part in her Happiness. Pray write to me by the next Post to DUBLIN, where, if we have a safe Passage over Sea, we shall be by the beginning of next Week, for we are to set sail the last day

day of this. If you have written any thing to me to CARDIGAN relating to this Affair, pray write it again to me to DUBLIN in Italian; for I know not when I shall receive the Letters that will come to CARDIGAN the latter end of this Week, and I am very desirous to know your Thoughts of this Matter; that since I cannot bring Relief to your Sorrows, I may at least share them with you. But I am talking to you, as if you were a Person of as little Virtue and Resolution as my self. No, POLIARCHUS, I doubt not but you have more of the Philosopher in you, than to suffer your self to be twice overcome by the same Passion. Leave then the unavailing Sighs, Complaints, and Tears to me, who am of the tender Sex, and press'd with such a load of Sorrows, that I despair of ever finding Relief. Were you still a Lover, which you are not, I

E

grieve

grieve enough at this Severity of Fate,  
both for my self and you: The chief-  
est Comfort I have left is to converse  
with you. Send me word what the  
Town and Court say of this Marriage,  
and when I come to DUBLIN, I will  
in return write you something that  
shall make you smile. LUCASIA is still  
very much your Servant; and I am  
confident you are so fully persua-  
ded of my Esteem for you, that  
you will never require an Oath to  
prove that Article; for while I am  
any thing I must be, &c.

Figlarred [Lucasia's Holse]

June 4. 1662.

ORINDA.

LETTER



LETTER XII.

**I**F your Silence this Week was intended to exempt you from the Persecution of my Scribble, you see your Design has miscarry'd; and you may believe, that not to let me hear from you as I expect, is a certain way to provoke me to beg of you not to discontinue me the Favour of your Correspondence, of which I know my self to be so unworthy, that every little Omission on your part, alarms me with the Apprehension of having utterly lost it. I am sure you are too generous to alter your Thoughts of me, however I may have been represented to you, especially till you have better Proofs than the bare Assertion of one, who could

know so little of that Affair; and I dare promise you, that even CALANTHE her self would acquit me of that Imputation: For she hugs her self so much in her Choice, that she will not suffer even the Doctor to have any share in the Glory of having contributed to it; much more therefore will she exclude me, who am far from laying Claim to any: I am very content that it should be wholly attributed to her self and her Uncle, and will never rob them of the Reputation they are like to gain by it. If you are satisfy'd with my proceeding in that Affair, as you have assur'd me you are, I look on my self to be happier than they. But I will tell you something to make you laugh: The Doctor is not so fortunate in his Amours as his Friend, for his Mistress has absolutely refus'd him; and the Jest of it is,

Orinda to Poliarchus. 53

is, she fed him with vain Hopes till she saw her Complaisance was no longer needful for her Uncle's Service, and then on a sudden she grew so proud and scornful, that he is not a little mortify'd at it. She publicly declares that he has not Estate enough, that he is of a Humour very disagreeable, and that she can never like him: Besides, she says and does a thousand disobliging things to him, and carries her self in so haughty a manner, that I have often wish'd you here, that you might at least have the Pleasure of this small Revenge. In short, after all the noise has been made about it, I take the Match to be quite broken off. And so much for that. I would now say something in answer to your Italian, but I have neither Time nor Opportunity; for a certain Person is very jealous of what

passes between us, and watches me close : But in a word, I believe the Husband to be of a Humour stubborn and surly enough ; yet to speak sincerely, I have not hitherto perceiv'd the Marks of any ill Nature towards her ; and indeed who could be barbarous or cruel to a Person of so sweet a Temper and so much Merit, and who has made a Sacrifice of her self and all her Thoughts to his Will and Pleasure ? The Country hereabouts is very like WALES, I mean the most barren parts of it, that are hilly, and near the Sea. There is very little Wood, and the Prospect not in the least pleasant. The House is indifferent, and that's all ; for 'tis but very ordinary for a Person of his Quality, and she deserves a better. There is but little Conversation, and that too none of the best :

But



## Orinda to Poliarchus. 55

But in the Town the Buildings and Company are something better. Pray let me know whether ROSANIA be living or not; for but that you and PHILASTER have made mention of her, I should have no reason to think she is, not having heard from her since I came into IRELAND, which is no small Affliction to me. Next Week we go to DUBLIN, and I shall soon after return to WALES; but before that you will receive more Troubles of this nature from, &c.

Rostreor, July 19. 1662.

ORINDA.

LETTER XIII.

**I** Received yours of the twelfth after I had written my last, which will be with you before *Sunday* next; and then you will acquit me of my Promise to make you smile, for I am confident you will laugh heartily; and I give you leave to make my Brother PHILIPS, CIMENA and ROSANIA Sharers in your Mirth; particularly ROSANIA, to whom you are bound in Justice to give some part of your Diversion; for she tells me you have infected her with your Sighs, for which I could chide you with as good a Grace as the Gentleman that curs'd his Servant for swearing, but that I am so much oblig'd for the share you take in my Trouble, that

Orinda to Poliarchus. 57

that I hasten to thank you for it, and endeavour all I can to follow your Advice, and compose my outward Shew to much more Content and Satisfaction than I feel within: Hoping that in time either Reason or Resentment will cure me of my Passion for the Conversation of a Person, who has so studiously contriv'd my losing it. I now see by Experience that one may love too much, and offend more by a too fond Sincerity, than by a careless Indifferency, provided it be but handsomely varnish'd over with civil Respect. I find too there are few Friendships in the World Marriage-proof; especially when the Person our Friend marries has not a Soul particularly capable of the Tenderness of that Endearment, and solicitous of advancing the noble Instances of it, as a Pleasure of their own,

own, in others as well as themselves: And such a Temper is so rarely found, that we may generally conclude the Marriage of a Friend to be the Funeral of a Friendship; for then all former Endearments run naturally into the Gulf of that new and strict Relation, and there, like Rivers in the Sea, they lose themselves for ever. This is indeed a lamentable Truth, and I have often study'd to find a Reason for it. Sometimes I think it is because we are in truth more ill-natur'd than we really take ourselves to be; and more forgetful of the past Offices of Friendship, when they are superseded by others of a fresher Date, which carrying with them the Plausibility of more Duty and Religion in the Knot that ties them, we persuade ourselves will excuse us if the Heat  
and



C Linda to Poliarchus. 59

and Zeal of our former Friendships decline and wear off into Lukewarmness and Indifferency: whereas there is indeed a certain secret Meanness in our Souls, which mercenarily inclines our Affections to those w<sup>th</sup> whom we must necessarily be oblig'd for the most part to converse, and from whom we expect the chiefest outward Conveniencies. And thus we are apt to flatter our selves that we are constant and unchang'd in our Friendship, tho' we insensibly fall into Coldness and Estrangement; but will not believe it, because we know 'tis ungenerous and base. And thus it is that the thing call'd Friendship, without which the whole Earth would be but a Desert, and Man still alone, tho' in Company, grows sick and languishes, and *Love once sick, soon*  
*quickly*

*quickly will it die?* But enough of these Speculations. I find there is nothing impossible in this World but for me to grow wise: Yet after all, I had rather lose CATHANTHE, as I lose her, than gain her as Mr. Doctor has gain'd her Company. I have a hundred things to say, would this stollen Minute permit: But I shall soon be in a place where I shall have sad Reason to be free from the Fear I am now in, lest she should surprize me, and find what would not please her, tho' I take Heaven to witness, I would neither do, nor say, nor think any thing in her Disparagement, much less that would injure her for the Empire of the whole World. PHILASTER is with us, and assures you that his sense of your Favours and Respects for you, can neither be drown'd in an *Irish* Mist, nor lost in

in a L. . He is no better pleas'd  
 with CALANTHE's Change of Con-  
 dition than my self. CIMENA hears  
 from him, and by that means you  
 may have a better account of the  
 Husband's Behaviour to his Wife,  
 of his Humours and way of Life  
 than I can now send you. I believe  
 indeed that he loves her very well,  
 but he carries himself to her with  
 such an Air of Sovereignty, and in  
 my Opinion so silly and clownish with-  
 al, that I am much surpriz'd that  
 she, who is so well-bred, and her  
 Conversation every way so agreeable,  
 can be so happy with him as she seems  
 to be: for indeed she is nothing but  
 Joy, and never so well pleas'd as in  
 his Company; which makes me con-  
 clude, that she is either extremely  
 chang'd, or has more of the dissem-  
 bling Cunning of our Sex than I  
 thought she had. I have just now  
 receiv'd

receiv'd the Letter you d<sup>ed</sup> to  
 me at CARDIGAN, wherein you give  
 me an account of their MAJESTY's  
 great Goodness to me, for which  
 I return you many Thanks, and par-  
 ticularly for the Alterations you  
 made in the Poem, which I look  
 on as a greater Proof of your Friend-  
 ship, than all the undue Praises you  
 give me. But by this time I have  
 certainly tir'd you, unless you are  
 resolv'd that nothing shall do so  
 from, &c.

Dublin, July 30. 1662.

**O R I N D A,**

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**LETTER**



LETTER XIV.

**Y**OU say true, POLIARCHUS,  
 I cannot be in a fit Humour  
 to write any thing in Verse at a  
 time when I expect each hour to be  
 separated from my ever dear LU-  
 CASIA. A Blow for which you pre-  
 pare me with so much Kindness and  
 so excellent a Discourse, that I  
 must needs bear it with greater Re-  
 solution, or be very undeserving  
 of the Assistance you give me. I am  
 indeed of your Opinion, and could  
 never govern my Passions by the  
 Lessons of the Stoicks, who at best  
 rather tell us what we should be,  
 than teach us how to be so; they  
 shew the Journey's end, but leave  
 us to get thither as we can. I  
 would be easie to my self in all  
 the

the Vicissitudes of Fortune, and SENECA tells me I ought to be so, and that 'tis the only way to be happy; but I knew that as well as the Stoick. I would not depend on others for my Felicity; and EPICURETUS says, if I do not, nothing shall trouble me. I have a great Veneration for these Philosophers, and allow they give us many Instructions that I find applicable and true; but as far as I can see, the Art of Contentment is as little to be learn'd, tho' it be much boasted of, in the Works of the Heathens, as the Doctrine of forgiving our Enemies. 'Tis the School of Christianity that teaches both these excellent Lessons. And as the Theory of our Religion gives us reason to conform and resign our Will to that of the Eternal, who is infinitely Wise, and Just, and Great, and

and Good; for the Practice of our Duty, tho' in the most difficult Cases, gives us a secret Satisfaction, that surpasses all other earthly Pleasures: And when we have once had the Experiment of it, we may truly say the Poet was in the right to exhort us to study Virtue, because the more we practise it, 'twill prove the more pleasant, more easie, and more worthy of Love. But of this in a little time more at large, when I shall have greater cause, and too much leisure for such Reflections. I will now inform you of my Adventures here. My good Fortune has favour'd me with the Acquaintance of my Lord ORRERY: He is indeed a Man of great Parts, and agreeable Conversation; and has been so extremely civil to me, that were he not a most obliging Person, I am sure he could not excuse

F

it

it to his own Judgment. By some Accident or another my Scene of POMPEY fell into his Hands, and he was pleas'd to like it so well, that he sent me the *French* Original; and the next time I saw him, so earnestly importun'd me to pursue that Translation, that to avoid the Shame of seeing him who had so lately commanded a Kingdom, become a Petitioner to me for such a Trifle, I obey'd him so far as to finish the Act in which that Scene is; so that the whole third Act is now *English*. This I the rather did, hoping to undeceive him in the partial Opinion he had of my Capacity for such an Undertaking; and not doubting but he would have dispens'd with my farther Trouble therein. But he no sooner had it, than (I think to punish me for having done it so ill) he enjoin'd



Orinda to Poliarchus. 67

join'd me to go on; and not only so,  
but brib'd me to be contented with  
the Pains by sending me an excel-  
lent Copy of Verses, which, were I  
not conscious of my own Unwor-  
thiness, would make me rather for-  
get the Subject, than disbelieve the  
Complements of his Lordship's Muse.  
But I have undergone as great a  
Temptation to Vanity from your  
Tongue and Pen, as he can give  
me; and yet I hope neither of you  
shall ever make me forget my self  
so much, as to take Pride in any  
thing, but the having POLIARCHUS  
for my Friend. I will by my next  
send you my Lord's Verses, on  
Condition that in Exchange you  
will let me have a Copy of your  
Translation of *Le Temple de la  
Mort*; his Lordship is in Love with  
the Original, and you will infinite-  
ly oblige me in putting it in my

Power to shew him your excellent Version of it. To bribe you yet farther, I will send you mine of POMPEY as fast as I do it; and because this is no great Temptation, I will send you some Translations from VIRGIL by Mr. COWLEY. You will wonder at my Lord's Obstinacy in this Desire to have me translate POMPEY, as well because of my Incapacity to perform it, as that so many others have undertaken it: But all I can say or do is to no purpose, for he persists in his Request, and will not be refus'd. The best on't is, that having sent him one Act already, I will take day enough for the rest. But I have weary'd you as much with this Story, as he has me with Commands, which I am so unable to perform. He knows you, for he speaks of you with a great deal of

# Orinda to Poliarchus. 69

of Honour and Esteem, and there-  
in, much more than by all his  
Compliments to me, has not only  
discover'd his Judgment, but ob-  
lig'd, &c.

Dublin, Aug. 20. 1662.

ORINDA.

My LETTER

## LETTER XV

**I** Will always rather ~~chuse~~ to think it proceeds from my own Misfortune, than from your Forgetfulness of me, whenever I am disappointed in my Expectation of receiving a Letter from you ; for could I believe you desirous to put an end to the Correspondence, which I desire so much, I should in Civility forbear extorting it in this importunate manner ; and so contribute to a Loss, which I am most unwilling to undergo : When therefore you would be rid of these Troubles, you must downright tell me so, since you see I cannot be brought to understand it by all the Signs your Silence can make. 'Tis true, one Letter of yours is worth whole



Orinda to Poliarchus. 71

whole Volumes of mine, and yet I do not write every Post, lest that should deter you from those obliging Returns, that are my only Design in Writing. But if either my Thoughts or Observation could produce any thing worthy your Perusal, I would write to you twice a day if I could; from whence you may be assur'd, I would not omit writing as often as I can, which is now twice a Week, but that I want matter fit to entertain you; and I might very justly plead this in Excuse of Silence at this time, had not PHILASTER copy'd my Lord ORREY's Verses, I told you of in my last, and desir'd me to send them you as his Present, which I the rather do to make you some Amends for the many ill ones I have troubled you with, and to let you see how perfect a Poet my Lord is, who writes

with so much Elegancy on so underserving a Subject: For Fiction, you know, is the proper Employment of the Muses. Let me have your Opinion of them, which, if you send it the next Post after you receive this, may find me here, but much longer, I think, I shall not stay. Above all forget not my Request for your *Temple of Death*. And now I speak of that Poem, what Progress have you made in your Translation from the *Spanish*? Which I very much desire to see, but not so much as I do, that it may one day be my good Fortune to see the Translator, whose faithful Friend and humble Servant I must be while I am *ORINDA*, or any thing that Name signifies.

Dublin, Aug. 30. 1662.

LETTER

LETTER XVI.

I Am very much oblig'd by the  
 Care you take to lay hold  
 of the Opportunity I seldom give  
 you, to assure me that my Silence  
 should not create yours. I know  
 I am not able to say any thing  
 that can deserve your reading, much  
 less answering; and by consequence  
 am conscious how unworthy I am of  
 your Correspondence, and that I  
 can no way deserve it but by down-  
 right Importunity. You may there-  
 fore be assur'd that it must be  
 something very extraordinary that  
 can exempt you from the frequent  
 Trouble of my Letters. But had  
 I as much Sense and good Lan-  
 guage as I ought to have, to de-  
 serve so much of yours; yet I  
 should

should never be able duly to acknowledge the Kindness of your last Letter, which has oblig'd me, as my Lord of ORRERY says the King did his People by the Act of Oblivion, *both in the manner and the action too.* But my best way to express my Gratitude for all your Favours, is to confess them as much above it, as your Method of conferring them exceeds that of all other Men; and that all your Actions are so generous, and accompany'd with such obliging Circumstances, that they are no more to be requited than forgotten. Your Description of the Queen's Entrance is as lively, as that seems to have been glorious. In return of your Presbyterian News, I will tell you that last Sunday Mr. BAGSHAW held a Conventicle in my Lord ANGLESEY's Lodgings, where the Saints brought



Orinda to Poliarchus. 75

brought Tickets for their Entrance  
as they do at the Play-house; but  
the Guards were sent with Orders  
to disperse them, and bring the  
Holder forth before the Mayor; as  
also to take the Names of the Con-  
gregation; however, this hinder'd  
not many of them from meeting  
to the same purpose in the After-  
noon. Some Force, they say, was  
us'd at the Stable Door, which my  
Lord ANGLESEY resented, and de-  
sir'd to know, if his Horses were  
Non-conformists: How he will far-  
ther digest this Pill is not yet  
known. I am now almost certain  
that I shall not be so happy as to  
see you at LONDON this Winter,  
for I shall scarce reach home be-  
fore the depth of it. As soon as  
a day is fix'd for my going hence,  
you shall have notice of it. LU-  
CASIA, PHILASTER, and all the  
rest

rest of your Friends here are much  
your humble Servants, but none  
of them in an equal Degree  
to, &c.

Dublin, Sept. 6. 1662.

**O R I N A L**

**LETTER**

## LETTER XVII.

I Could not let slip this Opportunity of saluting POLIARCHUS without putting him to any greater Expence to receive it, than all that in my whole Life I am ever like to pay him is worth. And I should in good earnest be much out of Countenance to give you so frequent Occasions of paying for nothing, did not your Commands and Acceptance encourage and justifie that Presumption. I have ever thought you excellent since I had any Knowledge of you, but not so much on account of any other of your distinguishing Qualities, as for the Nobleness and Generosity of your Temper: A Virtue hard to be found, and but little

the practis'd in this mercenary Age: Wit, Learning, and Parts may attend a sneaking, nay, a dishonest Heart; but Goodness of Nature, Candour of Mind, and Generosity of Temper, are God-like Qualities, and claim an universal Veneration. These are the Virtues that incline you to afford me your Correspondence, and to take in good part such wretched Scribbles as these. I admire Nature for nothing more than for blending together in one and the same Person, a mild, generous, and brave Temper of Soul; a Favour she never yet bestow'd on any with greater Profusion than on your self: But I must stifle and suppress my own Thoughts on this Subject, lest I should offend the Goodness I so much revere. We have a new Play-house here, which in my Opinion is much finer than

D'AVL



D'AVENANT's; but the Scenes are not yet made. I saw there Yesterday *Wit without Money*, which as far as I can judge was indifferently well acted. My Lord ROSCOMON is a very ingenious Person, of excellent natural Parts, and certainly the most hopeful young Nobleman in IRELAND. He has paraphras'd a Psalm admirably well, and the Scene of *Care selects Beate in Pastor Fido* very finely; in many places much better than Sir RICHARD FANSHAW. He begins it thus,

Dear happy Groves, and you the  
dark Retreat  
Of silent Horrour, Rest's eternal  
Seat! &c.

This last he undertook purely out of Complement to me, having heard me say, 'twas the best Scene  
in

in the *Italian*, and the worst in the *English*: He was but two Hours about it, having certainly as easie and fluent a Vein as ever I observ'd or heard of, and which 'tis great pity he does not improve by Practice. ARTABAN will soon bring you my Translation of POMPEY, which I fear will not be deem'd worthy to breathe in a place where so many of the greatest Wits have so long clubb'd for another of the same Play. I long to know your Opinion of it, which I am sure you will give me with all the Freedom and Sincerity of true Friendship, wherein you will oblige beyond Expression, &c.

Dublin, Octob. 19. 1662.

ORINDA.

LETTER

## LETTER XVIII.

**B**Y ARTABAN, who set sail Yesterday for ENGLAND, I inform'd you what had prevented me from troubling you with my usual Importunities for a whole fortnight together, which is a longer Vacation than I have suffer'd you to enjoy since I saw you, or than you are ever like to have again, if I have my Health and Wits about me; for I must surely be strangely disturb'd before I can omit a Correspondence so entirely to my own Advantage. I give you Thanks for the News your last Letter brought me, tho' there was more in it than I was pleas'd with knowing. But I have been so accustomed to the Vicissitudes of For-

G

tune

tune in a private Condition, that I cannot wonder there are Revolutions in the publick too. I hope, however, those that have already happen'd will put a Period to the Turn of the Wheel, and fix it for ever, since what you seem to apprehend is far more terrible than what you relate. The News that pleas'd me was that you and my dear ROSANIA are well. I received a Letter from her too, wherein she acknowledges the Favour you did her, and expresses her great Esteem for you. You may both be assur'd, that you cannot speak nor think of ORINDA with more Justice, than when you conclude her to be a sincere Friend to you both. I dare answer the same for LUCASIA too, and that we cannot be oftner in your Thoughts, than you are in ours.

But



## Orinda to Poliarchus. 83

But let me not forget to return  
you Thanks for the *Temple of  
Death*, which I read again and a-  
gain with vast Delight, and then  
sent it to my Lord ORRERY, from  
whom I have receiv'd a thousand  
Thanks for it, and indeed twas  
the only account upon which I  
could receive Acknowledgments  
from him without blushing. I  
am now busie in putting in ANTE-  
NOR'S Claim, as an Adventurer in  
my Father's Right here in IRE-  
LAND: When this is done I shall  
hasten for WALES, whither my  
Inclination as well as Duty call  
upon me to be going. You may  
be sure I shall be suffer'd to go  
hence in the roughest Season; for  
my Company is so little engaging,  
that to stay in any place half so  
long as I have done here, would  
tire the greatest Patience, that had

84 *Letters from*

not Goodness enough to impute it to the Kindness of my Intentions. LUCASIA is, I believe, in the Condition you mentioned; but I am so useless a Friend, and she has so many others, who are more considerable, that my Absence will be the least of her Troubles. I have not yet told you that ARTABAN brings you all POMPEY, except one Scene, which his hurry would not permit him to tarry for; but I have now sent it to him, that he may transcribe it for you, the rest of the Play being written in his Hand. I long to hear your Opinion of it, for I fear that I have murder'd him more barbarously here, than ACHILLAS did in EGYPT; and that my Lord ORREY's Commands to me, have prov'd no less fatal to him, than the Orders that PTOLOMEY gave to that Assassin.

# Orinda to Poliarchus. 85

Assassin. But having already written a long Letter to you concerning that Affair, I will conclude this with asking Pardon for all the Trouble you receive from, &c.

Dublin, Octob. 22. 1662.

ORINDA.

3<sup>d</sup> LETTER

## LETTER XIX.

I Have not heard from you these three Weeks, but am apt to flatter my self that you have written, and that your Letters are waiting for a Wind, as we believe the LONDON Packets have done for some time; for we have heard nothing from ENGLAND these ten Days and more, which is a great Affliction to me; for I am very impatient to know whether you have receiv'd what I sent you by ARTABAN, with the true reason why it dar'd to present it self to you in so ill a Dress: But I have had so many Instances of your unmerited Goodness towards me, that I despair not of finding it continu'd to all my Productions; for I  
look



look on you to be more a Friend to me, than DAVID was to JONATHAN, and am convinc'd will love my MEPHOSHETH, tho' he be lame, and under a Cloud: I mean, you will pardon the most imperfect Labours of your Friend, and either correct or conceal their Faults. Sir NICHOLAS ARMOURER is still here; and lest he should stand too much on the Distance of a Grandfather, and be scrupulous to give you an account how he spends his time, I will do it for him, and tell you, that he passes it in the Day agreeably enough; but because a doleful Bell-man us'd to disturb his Sleep in the Night, and throw him into some melancholy Contemplations of Eternity, he has thought fit to reform that Grievance, and has made a more profitable Admonition for that Night-walker to thun-

der in his Master's Bars as he goes  
his nightly Rounds. Part of it is  
as follows :

Learn betimes your Days to  
number,  
And spend not all your time at  
Ombre.

Fly Pandars, Swearers, Traitors,  
Whores,

Spadillio's, Mallillio's, Matta-  
dores.

Shun Sin in Word, and Deed,  
And Thought,

And ev'ry Morning pay your  
Groat :

Waste not in vain the chrystal  
Day,

But gather your Rose-buds while  
you may.

With a great deal more of the  
like reverend Extravagancy, which  
he

Orinda to Poliarchus. 89

he and the ingenious Doctor PETT have contriv'd for the same purpose. This is to convince you, that tho' Spiders are not conversant in IRELAND, the Muses are better natur'd, and that there are Poets here besides my Lord ORRERY. I could send you too a jolly Ballad of my own, but I have not time now, nor indeed Cruelty enough to be eternally tormenting you; especially till I have heard your Thoughts of POMPEY, where I desire you, if you think fit, to change the two last Lines of PHOTINUS's Speech in the second Act for these,

*Boasts are but Air, but heaven  
ges best*

*That acts his braver Thoughts,  
and talks the least.*

But

But this and all the rest of it is intirely submitted to your Judgment. And had you been near me, my Lord ORRERY should not have seen one Line of it, before it had pass'd your File; for till then I can entertain none but distrustful Thoughts of it. There are, tho' much against my Will, more Copies of it abroad than I could have imagin'd; but the Dutchess of ORMOND would not be refus'd one, and she and PHILASTER have permitted several Persons to take Copies from theirs. However, I disclaim them all till I see the Corrections you have made, which I beg of you to send me by the first Opportunity, that I may, before I go hence, correct the other Copies by yours. I yet resolve to be going before Christmas, tho' the Weather here be  
conti-



Orinda to Poliarchus. 91

continually tempestuous: I have now no longer any pretence of Business to detain me, and a Storm must not keep me from ANTENOR and my Duty, lest I raise a greater within. But oh! that there were no Tempests but those of the Sea for me to suffer in parting with my dear LUCASIA! A thousand times a Day I call to mind this excellent Couplet,

*O! qu'il est doux d'aimer, si l'on  
aimeroit toujours;*

*Mais hélas? il n'y a point d'éternelles Amours.*

But I will no longer trouble you with these melancholy Thoughts: Be pleas'd only to believe, that wherever I am, in the midst of all my Enjoyments, and all my Afflictions,

**Afflictions,** POLIARCHUS may be  
 assur'd of having a most faith-  
 ful, tho' useless and undeserving  
 Friend of, must not keep me from  
 and my Duty. But only that there were  
 no Tempers but those of the Sea  
 for me to resist in parting with  
 my dear EUGENIA! A thousand  
 times a Day I call to mind this  
 excellent Couplet

**ORINDA**

O! in it's dark'ning hour,  
 I sit alone;  
 My heart is full of love,  
 And I am sad.

**LETTER**

But I will no longer trouble you  
 with these melancholy Thoughts;  
 Be pleas'd only to believe that  
 wherever I am, in the midst of  
 all my Enjoyments, and all my  
 Afflictions,

## LETTER XX.

**I**N yours of the 22<sup>d</sup> of last Month, which I receiv'd the 28<sup>th</sup>, I found so many things, that I must not call Truths, and dare not think barely Complements, that I am at a Loss how to understand them aright: For tho' none has a greater Deference for your Judgment in other things, yet when the Competition comes to be betwixt that and your Friendship and Kindness for me, you must give me leave to believe the first of them to be a little blinded by the latter; and therefore I will say, you read the two first Acts of POMPEY with so favourable a Prepossession, as would not give you leave to form a right Judgment of them.

them. But by this time you have gone through the whole Translation; and if you have not discover'd in it too many Errors for any Correction to redress, you will much oblige me to consider it with more Severity of the Critick, and let it receive the last finishing Strokes from your excellent Pen; that it may be a tollerable Offering to be laid at the Feet of that great Person for whom I design'd it: And therefore, since you have encourag'd me to believe that an Address to her might be pardon'd, I have taken the Assurance to obey you in writing one of a few Lines only, not daring to rob her of her time by any length of reading. Besides, I am so certain of your Good-will towards me, that I cannot doubt, but when you present it to her, you will say much more



Orinda to Poliarchus. 95

more in my behalf than I have either Courage or Skill to say for myself. This I desire you to believe, that when you shall speak of the Veneration I have for her Royal Highness, you can scarce exceed the Truth; for the Bounds of my utmost Ambition aspire no higher, than to be able to give her one Moment's Entertainment. But if this Trifle be at all presented, the sooner, I think, the better. For in spite of all I could do to prevent it, so many Copies are already abroad, that the particular Respect intended to the Dutchess, will be lost by a little Delay. Besides, the other Translation, done by so many eminent Hands, will otherwise appear first, and throw this into everlasting Obscurity; unless it get as much the start of that in Time, as it comes behind it in Merit.

Merit. But I refer it wholly to you, and will now change my Subject, and tell you, that we have Plays here in the newest Mode, and not ill acted; only the other Day, when OTHELLO was play'd, the DOGE of VENICE and all his Senators came upon the Stage with Feathers in their Hats, which was like to have chang'd the Tragedy into a Comedy, but that the MOOR and DESDEMONA acted their Parts well. Judge then of the Humour I was in, by what happen'd once to your self, when we saw the Maid's Tragedy together. I am most glad that you oblige ROSANNA with your Visits, who, I assure you, is very sensible of that Favour, and sets a high Value on your Friendship. I sent her a Copy of POMPEY, which, if she receive it before you have presented one to  
the

# Orinda to Poliarchus. 97

the Dutcheſs, I deſire, none may  
ſee but her ſelf. I have other things  
to write, but want time at preſent  
to ſay more, but that I am and  
will be all my Life with the greateſt  
Sincerity, &c.

Decemb. 3. 1662.

ORINDA.

H. LETTER

## LETTER XXI.

**T**H<sup>O</sup> yours of the second instant found me neither at an Ambassador's Entry, nor at a Consecration Feast, yet it gave me more Content than the former can take in his Character, or the latter in his Dignity. I am oblig'd to you for examining POMPEY with so much Care, as to have found one Fault, though I believe you might still find many : I had it once in my Mind to tell you, that I was loath to use the word *Effort*, but not having Language enough to find any other Rhyme without losing all the Spirit and Force of the next Line, and knowing that it has been naturaliz'd at least these twelve Years; besides, that it was  
not



Orn. . to Poliarchus. 99

not us'd in that place in the *French*;  
I ventur'd to let it pass: But I  
know you are better able to cor-  
rect that Passage than my self, and  
I hope you will yet do it. I am  
not a little troubled that ARTABAN  
has yet brought you but two Acts;  
for at this rate when is it likely to  
be presented to the Dutches? I  
had rather it never should, than  
that she should hear it is gotten  
into other Hands before, which I  
much fear she will. Had I sus-  
pected that he would have been so  
slow a Transcriber, I would have  
sent you an intire Copy from hence,  
well enough scribbled over for you  
to correct; and then you might  
have gotten it fairly written for  
her Highness. I have sent to press  
him to be as expeditious as possible,  
and pray do you give him no Rest  
till he has perform'd his Task. My

H 2

Lady

Lady ROSCOMON returns you her Acknowledgments for the Cypher. She is indeed a Person of so great Merit, and so extremely kind to me, that I am sure you will not repent of having so much oblig'd her. She is pleas'd to lay aside all the distance betwixt us, and uses me as a most particular and intimate Friend: Besides, she has so much good Humour join'd to her other Accomplishments, that I should be very stupid, did I not embrace the Happiness of her Friendship with the utmost Satisfaction. But now I am boasting of a Friend, I fear you will give me no cause to do so of you, if after all your Obligements you conceal your Amour from a Person so interested as my self in all that concerns you. I can hear in several Places of a Servant to a Lady who has 3000 Pounds a Year,

Orinda to Poliarchus. 101

Year, and I could tell you his Name too if I thought you were a Stranger to it: If she be excellently good, I wish you had her; if not, I cannot, tho' she had three Millions. I beg of you to be free with me, and make me your Confident; perhaps my Friendship may stand you in some other stead than hitherto it has done: But were I as little able to serve you in this, as in any other Affair, would it be no Ease to you, to give a share in the Knowledge of your Concerns to a Person, who you know will be so ready to serve you in any thing, and keep your Counsel with so much Faithfulness? Our Lover here, the Doctor, is still rack'd with Delays, but flatters himself with Amends for all if he could prevail with the Mother to be once in a good Humour. My going hence continues un-

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certain, because my Business here is still so too. LUCASIA salutes you with her very humble Service, and be pleas'd to accept the like from, &c.

11 Dec. 1662.

ORINDA.

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LETTER

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## LETTER XXII.

**B**ELIEVE me, POLIARCHUS, I writ the Letter to the Dutch-  
 ess in Prose, neither out of Lazi-  
 ness nor Disrespect, but merely be-  
 cause I thought it would have look'd  
 more pedantick and affected to have  
 address'd my self to her in Verse. I  
 verily believe I could more easily  
 have pleas'd my self with what I  
 should have said in Rhime, but I  
 thought Prose would favour less of  
 Ostentation: Besides, having so  
 lately written to her in Verse on a  
 like occasion, I strictly enjoyn'd my  
 self to write in Prose now, and  
 that too by the Advice of all my  
 Friends here; who, I hope, were  
 not mistaken in their Opinions, and  
 that the manner of my Applica-  
 tion

tion to her Highness will not be misunderstood, nor taken amiss. However, I have so great a Defe-  
rence for your Judgment, that had  
you sent me word you utterly dis-  
approv'd my accosting her in  
Prose, I would have attempted  
something or other in Verse to have  
sent you by this Post; but your  
not having wholly condemn'd my  
having made my Address in Prose,  
has prevented me. I am overjoy'd  
that you assure me with all the Sin-  
cerity of a Friend, that you can  
endure the reading of my Transla-  
tion, and that you believe it will  
pass the Test with others as well  
as your self. 'Tis now about to  
be expos'd to all the Criticks of  
ALGIER, and what will become of  
it I know not, unless you will please  
to be its Champion, and persuade  
her Royal Highness to favour it  
with

Orinda to Poliarchus. 105

with her Protection; and then I need not fear the Severity of all that have had a hand in the other Translation, nor of the united Forces of all their Party, or whoever else will shew their Skill in censuring my innocent and well-meaning Performance. I confess I am somewhat unquiet till I hear how her Royal Highness receives the Boldness of my addressing it to her, and therefore desire to know my doom in that particular by the first Opportunity; and at the same time to have a more full account of your own Concerns, wherein none, unless you have a Mistress that understands her own Happiness, and intends yours, can take more part than my self. I took the Freedom in my last to ask you whether the Report of your Amour be groundless or not; in which, when you have  
more

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more Leisure, you will, I hope, resolve me. I wish a short Letter pleas'd you as little as it does me; for then I should now be reveng'd on you for your last.

Decemb, 27. 1662,

ORINDA.

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LETTER

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LETTER XXIII.

**Y**OUR last Letter, most generous POLIARCHUS, gave me several Emotions of Mind while I was reading it; for at first I verily believ'd you as arrant a Lover as ever you were, till you undeceiv'd me afterwards, and gave me just reason to acquit you of the Unkindness I laid to your Charge, in refusing to make me your Confident. I heard from several Persons that you were carrying on an Amour, and I could tell you the Lady's Name too; but since there is nothing in it, 'twill be best to say no more of it; only that I desire Heaven to direct you either in the Change or Continuance of your Condition, as may be most conducive

cive to your Happiness; and request you, not to refuse me such a share in your Friendship, as may entitle me to the Knowledge of all that concerns you; and to be assur'd besides, that tho' I can never deserve that Confidence, nor assist you in any thing, yet I can be as truly touch'd, and bear as great a part in all your good or ill Fortune, as any Person in the World; which you know, is not the most inconsiderable use that can be made of a Friend. And should it ever miraculously fall in my Power to serve you or any of yours, I should do it with greater Satisfaction than ever I took in receiving any of your Favours, except only the Promise of your Friendship, which I prefer to the greatest Contentments I can propose to my self on this side the Grave. And now,  
Sir,

Orinda to Poliarchus. 109

Sir, let me return you my Acknowledgments for all the Trouble you have given your self about POMPEY: The Theft you committed is so much forgiven by LUCASIA, that she thanks you for it; and says she is as glad you met with that Copy for her Highness, as she is vex'd that ARTABAN should serve us as he did: She is certain, and so am I too, that ROSANIA will be of her Mind. I humbly thank you for presenting it to the Dutchess, which you must needs have done in a favourable manner and lucky Minute, otherwise it could never have been so acceptable as you tell me it was. I should be extremely glad to hear that she continues to have the same Opinion of it when she has read it through; for I cannot but be apprehensive that her strict Judgment will discover many  
Errors,

Errors, which your Kindness prevented you from observing. Let her Thoughts of it be never so severe, I hope you will not disguise them from me: But you have drawn upon her one Trouble more, for I was so puff'd up with the Honour of her Protection, that I have ventur'd to lengthen the Play by adding Songs in the Intervals of each Act, which they flatter me here are not amiss: And indeed, if I may be allow'd to say any thing of my own Compositions, I do think them not inferior to any thing I ever writ: If you happen to like them, I am confident the Dutchess will do so too; and therefore I will send them you by the next Post (for I have not time to transcribe them now) that you may lay them at her Royal Highness's Feet. I have, I fear, done ill to raise your Expectation by  
commen-



Orinda to Poliarchus. 111

commending them my self, but you know that all I write aims at no higher an Ambition than to receive the last Correction from your Hand; so that whatever my Thoughts of them are, I submit them wholly to your better Judgment, either to correct them, if you think they deserve it, or otherwise to suppress them for ever. I am promis'd to have them all set by the greatest Masters in ENGLAND; but I should be more proud to have one Assurance from POLIARCHUS, that he likes them, than to have them compos'd by WILL. LAWES, were he still alive, and sung by Mrs. KNIGHT. PHILASTER has already set one of them very agreeably, and abundance of People are learning it: But I will give you no more trouble concerning them till next Post, for I must now thank you extremely for altering

tering the Word *Effort*; had I thought on the Turn you have given that Expression, you may be sure I would have us'd no other: I hope you have corrected it in her Highness's Copy. As for the words *Heaven* and *Power*, I am of your Opinion too, especially as to the latter; for the other may, I think, be sometimes so plac'd, as not to offend the Ear, when it is us'd in two Syllables. I long to hear what becomes of the other Translation of POMPEY, and what Opinion the Town and Court have of it; I have laid out several ways to get a Copy, but cannot yet procure one, except only of the first Act that was done by Mr. WALLER. Sir EDWARD FILMORE did one, Sir CHARLES SEDLEY another, and my Lord BUCKHURST another; but who the fifth I cannot learn, pray inform

inform your self as soon as you can,  
and let me know it. ANTENOR'S  
Affair that I mention'd to you for-  
merly, and not the Charms of this  
Place, detains me here still; but  
indeed never any body found more  
Civility, Kindness and Respect from  
all manner of Persons, especially  
of the highest Quality, than I do  
in this Country: I believe no Stran-  
ger was ever so well receiv'd among  
them before. I can add no more,  
but the needless Repetition of assu-  
ring you that I will be, as long as I  
am any thing, &c.

Jan. 10. 1667.

ORINDA.

I LETTER

## LETTER XXIV.

**I** Threaten'd you last Post, and now keep my Word, that I would send you the inclos'd Songs, that I made for the Intervals of the Acts of POMPEY; and if all who have seen them here do not flatter me very much, I may send them you with less Confusion than ever I could yet any thing of the like nature. But I have so constant a Distrust of my own Performances, and so much Reason for it, that I should not dare to desire you to present them to the Dutchess, did I not know you to be so much my Friend as to suppress the Errors that are past your Correction; but what you can make pardonable in them, be pleas'd to offer to her Highness



Orinda to Poliarchus. 115

Highness as a Production of her own Favour, and a Tribute for it. The first Song you will find to be brisk, and made on purpose for such an Air, which indeed PHILASTER has given it to all the Advantages that Musick, when apply'd by a skilful Hand, can give to the meanest Words. Almost all that can sing here have learnt it already, and I am so sure it will please you, that if you will, I will send it you in Notes: Mean while, if all your Interest and Eloquence can gain Acceptance, pray procure it from her Highness for this new Trifle I presume to send her: I writ to you last time to know how she likes POMPEY after reading, and what Judgment the Town makes of the other Translation, all which I would fain hear; but much rather of your Health and Conti-

nuance to own ORINDA as your Friend, which I have not done above this fortnight. I wish the *Russia* Ambassador and his Furs in the remotest part of his own Country, for he has hinder'd me of many a Letter from you, and shorten'd the few I have had; but you will, I hope, in a little time be more at leisure to think of, &c.

Jan. 14. 1663.

ORINDA.

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LETTER

Orinda to Poliarchus. 117

LETTER XXV.

**I** Have receiv'd yours of the tenth instant, and thank you for the Assurance it brings of the Continuance of your Concern for me, who can no ways deserve so great a Happiness, but by the inestimable Value I set upon it; but is it under colour of this that you pretend to talk to me at the rate you do both of my Verse and Prose? Or is it your cunning to make me conceal the first from you, and forbear giving you the trouble of the last? For these would be the Effects of this Usage, did not my great Esteem for POLIARCHUS outweigh all my Resentments for any Injuries he can throw upon me. The Friendship that you profess and

I expect ought to engage you to lay aside the Courtier, and tell me frankly your real Thoughts of my weak Performances. I freely forgive what is past, but on condition that I may prevail with you to banish all Flattery for the future. I sent you the Songs I made for POMPEY, and cannot indeed expect that you should be as barbarously severe to those unworthy Productions as an *Algerine*, because you were the occasion of my daring to trouble the World with any thing more on that Subject, by the Encouragement I receiv'd from you of the Dutches's Approbation, the Bishop of WORCESTER's, and Mr. ROSE's, but especially of your own; for which reason you are bound either to suppress or support and protect them, like a true Knight Errant, against all the Pyrates you  
wot



Orinda to Poliarchus. 119

wot of. I am sure I have cause to wish I had never made any of them; for I think they have been the chief reason that has made my Lord ORRERY resolve to have POMPEY acted here, which notwithstanding all my Intreaties to the contrary, he is going on with, and has advanc'd a hundred Pounds towards the Expence of buying *Roman* and *Egyptian* Habits. All the other Persons of Quality here are also very earnest to bring it upon the Stage, and seem resolv'd to endure the Penance of seeing it play'd on *Tuesday* come sevensnight, which day is appointed for the first time of acting it. My Lord ROSCOMON has made a Prologue for it, and Sir EDWARD DERING an Epilogue: Several other Hands have likewise oblig'd me with both Prologues and Epilogues; but those I first men-

tion'd will be only repeated; for they are the best writ that ever I read any thing of that kind. You shall have them by the next Post. The Songs are set by several Hands; the first and fifth admirably well by PHILASTER, the third by Doctor PETT, one *Le GRAND* a *Frenchman*, belonging to the Dutches of ORMOND, has, by her Order, set the fourth, and a *Frenchman* of my Lord ORRERY's the second; so that all is ready, and poor I condemn'd to be expos'd, unless some Accident, which I heartily wish, but cannot foresee, kindly intervene to my Relief. Had not the Duke himself, and all the considerable Persons here hasten'd its being acted, I might have had Hopes of preventing it, or at least have delay'd it till I was gone hence; but there was no resisting the Stream,  
and

## Orinda to Poliarchus. 121

and so it must e'en take its Fortune.  
But I fear I have tir'd you almost  
as much with entertaining you con-  
tinually about it, as they will be  
with the Representation of the Play:  
But I have some Design in being  
thus tedious on this Subject, and  
mean thereby to revenge my self of  
you, by convincing you how much  
you were a Courtier in commen-  
ding my Prose; yet I profess to  
you I am not so in declaring my  
self, &c.

Jan. 31. 1663.

ORINDA,

LETTER

## LETTER XXVI.

**I** Have not heard from you this Month, which Misfortune I impute rather to the Crossness of the Winds, than the Unkindness of your Silence; for 'tis the Unluckiness of this place never to have our Letters regularly from ENGLAND, for three Posts together. By my Lady TYRREL, who took shipping last *Friday* for CHESTER, I have sent you a Packet of printed POMPEY's to dispose of as you think fit. Be pleas'd to get one bound and present it to the Dutchess; and if you think the King would allow such a Trifle a Place in his Closet, let him have another; but before you part with any, pray  
mend



Orinda to Poliarchus. 123

mend these two Lines, Act 5.

Scene 2,

*If Heaven, which does persecute  
me still,*

*Had made my Power equal to my  
Will.*

My Objection to them is, that the words *Heaven* and *Power* are us'd as two Syllables each; but to find fault with them is much easier to me, than to correct them. I would fain have made use of your Correction, and thrown away the word *Effort*, but my Lord ORRERY would absolutely have it continu'd; and so it is, to please his Humour, tho' against my Will and Judgment too. You will find the Prologue in print much improv'd since 'twas sent you in writing; and indeed I am proud that your Judgment concurr'd

curr'd so much with mine in the Approbation of that and the Epilogue. I have had many Letters and Copies of Verses sent me, some from Acquaintance, and some from Strangers, to compliment me upon POMPEY, which were I capable of Vanity, would even surfeit me with it; for they are so full of Flattery, that I have not the Confidence to send them to you. One of them, who pretends to be a Woman, writes very well, but I cannot imagine who the Author is, nor by any Inquiry I can make, have hitherto been able to discover. I intend to keep that Copy by me, to shew it you when next we meet, which I heartily wish may be soon, it being one of the greatest Felicities I propose to my self in this World, and which I will endeavour to

Orinda to Poliarchus. 125

to compass once before I die with  
all the Contrivance and Assiduity I  
am capable of, being more than all  
the World besides, &c.

8 April 1663.

ORINDA.

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LETTER

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## LETTER XXVII.

I Hope I need not tell you that I set such a Value on every Expression in your last Letter, that not one Syllable of it is thrown away upon me ; nor that all the great Obligations you have heap'd on me are less binding than the Friendship with which they were conferr'd. I cannot therefore but thank you from the bottom of my Heart for continuing a Correspondence, which I prize above all things, and which gives me the greatest Satisfaction. I hope I shall never outlive the Loss of that Advantage ; and that your Goodness, which I have never merited, but will always study to deserve, will still keep me alive in your Thoughts.

Accept



## Orinda to Poliarchus. 1

Accept my Thanks likewise for the favourable Return you have obtained for me from her Royal Highness. I wish I could have sent you more Copies of POMPEY, but there being in all but five hundred printed, I could not get as many as I had occasion to dispose of. Mr. HERRINGMAN has written to me to give him leave to reprint it at LONDON, and I have order'd my Brother PHILIPS to treat with him about it. But I must beg the Favour of you to correct it before it goes to the Press, particularly the two Lines I writ to you of last Post, and those where the word *Effort* was us'd, which I desire may be alter'd as you once advis'd. And unless you will take the trouble upon you of correcting the Proofs, I am sure it will be as false printed as was my Copy of Verses to the Queen. I would beg  
leave

leave publickly to address it to the Dutchess, but that I must then put my Name to it, which I can never resolve to do; for I shall scarce ever pardon my self the Confidence of having permitted it to see the Light at all, tho' it was purely in my own Defence that I did; for had I not furnish'd a true Copy, it had been printed from one that was very false and imperfect. But should I once own it publickly, I think I should never be able to shew my Face again; and thus her Highness will be freed from the Trouble of protecting a Trifle, which indeed had never been expos'd at all, but by her Approbation, which was my sole Encouragement to let it first be seen by those, who even compell'd me to suffer it to be acted and then printed. I hear Mr. TUKE's Play is in the Press, and

Orinda to Poliarchus. 129

and am in great Impatience to see it. I humbly thank you for the Books you sent me. HUDIBRAS is an excellent Droll, and in my Life I never read any thing so naturally and so knowingly Burlesque. *Le nuove Guare de' Disperati* relates a very handsome Intrigue; but I am not yet perfect enough in the *Italian* to discover all the Beauties of COTESTI'S Poems, which I can scarcely forgive, my self for, having had the Advantage of so good a Master as your self. Pray instruct me what I must do to understand perfectly the *Italian* Poetry, which is my earnest Ambition, and shall be my obstinate Endeavour; for what I comprehend of it is so pleasant, that I cannot have any Patience when I am at a loss for the meaning, which indeed I am very often. I have lately read a Play call'd

K

Filli

*Filli di Sciro*, which pleases me extremely; and I should think myself very happy, if I understood *Tasso*, and the other Poets, as well as I do that Pastoral. I brought the CORTEGGIANO with me into IRELAND, and find it the best Company I ever met with, but POLIARCHUS, who is himself all and more than is there describ'd. I make no question but ROSANIA and you meet often at Church, and am very happy in Friends that make only such Assignations: Though I cannot partake of the excellent Sermons, yet by conversing with you two, I am sure of having them repeated to me in your Lives. I hope to hear from you once more before I go hence, tho' I am hastening to be gone as fast as I can. But you shall have an account of all my Motions, and resolves, and  
know



Orinda to Poliarchus. 131

know where you may make me  
happy with your Letters, which  
will ever be most welcome to, &c.

April 15. 1663.

ORINDA.

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K 2      LETTER

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## LETTER XXVIII.

**G**ive me leave, Sir, to tell you what I know you have heard from ANTENOR already, that he intreats you to accept of an Election to be Burgeſſ for the Town of CARDIGAN, which he would not mention to you till 'twas paſt, becauſe he was reſolv'd not to expoſe you to a Repulſe; nor had you ever been nam'd, but that he found himſelf able to carry it for you againſt all the World You are choſen upon the Poll by 118 Votes, all of them allow'd by our Antagoniſts themſelves to have right to elect. If any of the other Party ſhould endeavour to inſinuate that they quietly ſubmitted to it, merely out of reſpect to you, pray let them

Orinda to Poliarchus. 133

them know, that you are sufficiently inform'd, they did all they could to oppose you, and that it was carry'd purely by ANTENOR's single Interest. I hope all those who were the greatest Sticklers against him will now be convinc'd, that after all their Contrivances to asperse his Person and baffle the Election, he is not yet the despicable thing in his own Country that they would represent him to be. He hopes you will not despise this little Instance, since 'tis all his Misfortunes have left him capable to give, of his Esteem and Gratitude to you; for whom I am certain he has as profound a Respect and Veneration as for any Man living. I know you are not fond of being a Parliament Man; yet since you are elected so much without your seeking, that I am sure it was not so much as

thought of by you; and since it was intended as a Testimony of the eternal Value and Friendship that ANTENOR and ORINDA must ever have for the noble POLIARCHUS, I hope he will not be angry to be sent into the House without his own Consent, or Knowledge. The Truth is, ANTENOR and my self always intended it, but were not willing to tell you so, till we saw what Forces our Enemies were like to muster up against us; and had they been likely to have been too powerful for ANTENOR to cope with, your Name had never been mention'd: But when he saw the Affections of the Town so unanimous for him, he recommended you to them as a Person fit to be their Representative in Parliament; and, as I am inform'd by some who heard him, made a very handsome



Orinda to Poliarchus. 135

some Speech in the Face of the Country, and declar'd himself in such a manner as became a Gentleman, who neither could fear his Enemies, nor abandon his Country's Service. Since you have this Relation to a place where our little Fortune and Interest lies, I hope it will be a new Tie to our Friendship, and that ANTENOR will by this means have sometimes the Honour of hearing from you, which I know he will value as from the Man whose Acquaintance he most covets. And if any happy Providence make an Overture for our coming near you, he may then contract that Intimacy with you, which next to my own Happiness in your Conversation, which is now become absolutely necessary to the Satisfaction of my Life, is one of my most aspiring Wishes in this World.

But now you are a Member of Parliament, woe be to you for Letters; for if possible, I will increase that Persecution; since you will have but half the Inconvenience of them to excuse, I mean, the Trouble, not the Charge: And to say Truth, I have mightily consider'd those two Points, have I not? ROSANIA was not so good as her word, in letting me hear from her by the Post you told me I should, and pray tell her I am scarce in Charity with her, for being so very a Recreant, as never to be constant in maintaining a Correspondence, on which she knows I set so high a Value. You see, dear POLIARCHUS, that when I am writing to you, I never know when to leave off: I am sure I have tir'd you with this Scribble, which asks your Patience only till it has told you that

## Orinda to Poliarchus. 137

that no body in all the World  
is more faithfully your Friend  
than, &c.

April 18. 1663.

ORINDA.

LETTER

## LETTER XXIX.

I Should take it unkindly of any one but POLIARCHUS, that could bestow so many unfriendly Compliments on ANTENOR, for his doing him a Civility so far short of the Obligations he owes him, that I am confident he will think himself very happy to be assur'd, that you can forgive his having surpriz'd you in procuring you to be elected, without your own Privity, and that you would take in good part the Intentions he had in giving you that Earnest of his sincere and hearty Respects. But I have said so much on that Subject in my last, that 'twill be needless to repeat it in this. I am now on my Departure from hence, and hastening to my



Orinda to Poliarchus. 139

my Defart ; and indeed 'tis high time I were there: Nothing but my Friendship for LUCASIA, and the foliciting a small Affair ANTENOR has here, could have prevail'd with me to have been absent fo long. I hope now to be going in a few days, but till I have given you notice of the time, I desire you not to alter the Address of your Letters ; which, wherever I am, I would not fail to receive for more than I will tell you. I grant that if my Interest had been as prevalent with CALANTHE, as ANTENOR's prov'd at CARDIGAN, you had possess'd, and I had still enjoy'd, what Fortune now denies to both of us. I am sure I had as good a Pretence to the former, as ANTENOR, with all his Zeal to serve that Town, had to the latter ; but we are always deny'd what we earnestly

neftly covet, and allow'd what we  
lefs value. Methinks, as we much  
resemble each other in our Losses,  
fo we differ not much in our fup-  
porting them. I know with how  
much Difficulty you have endea-  
vour'd to fubmit to this cruel Blow  
of Providence, and you are not ig-  
norant how hard a Task it ftill is  
to me to refign my felf to it. But  
I muft overcome this Tendernefs of  
Soul that renders me fo uneafie;  
and if Reason will not do me that  
Office, Time and Necessity muft.  
I have us'd all the Arts that Diver-  
fion could afford me, to divide and  
cure a Paffion, that has met with  
fo ill a Return, and am not a little  
oblig'd to my Lady CORK's Fami-  
ly for affifting me in that Inten-  
tion: But oh! I begin already to  
dread what will become of me,  
when I return home, and am re-  
stor'd

stor'd to the sight of those places,  
where I have been so often blest  
with the Enjoyment of a Conver-  
sation in which I took so much  
Delight, and is now for ever ra-  
vish'd from me. The Melancholy  
that results from these Reflections  
is, I believe, next to the Happiness  
of conversing with you and ROSA-  
NIA, the chief Reason that makes  
me wish that any Star would be so  
kind as to furnish me with an occa-  
sion of being nearer to both of you,  
without doing any thing to obtain  
that Felicity, that might render me  
unworthy of it, I mean, by being  
prejudicial to ANTENOR'S Affairs.  
My Lady CORK says she will have  
me in LONDON, and in order to that  
will, when she comes up, consult  
with you about the Methods to  
bring it to pass. You may be sure  
I will contribute all that lies in my  
Power

Powe. towards the making my self thus happy. But write not one word either of this, or any thing that concerns CALANTHE, except in *Italian*. As for the reprinting of POMPEY, I leave it wholly to you to do what you will in it; be pleas'd only to correct it where it most needs. I am told I was mistaken in giving ACHOREUS the Quality of CLEOPATRA'S Gentleman-Usher, he being an *Egyptian* Priest. If it be an Error, the *French* led me into it, by calling him *Ecuyer de la Reine*, and therefore I bestow'd that Title on him in the Names of the Persons represented. After the third A& I have us'd an Expression which I take to be improper; *Recitative Air*: I desire it may be made *Recitative Musick*: And as to the rest let all the Corrections in the Copy I sent to your self



Orinda to Poliarchus. 143

self be observ'd. I hope you will  
not make me undergo so great a  
Penance, as your silence another  
fortnight would be; for not to hear  
constantly from you is no small Un-  
easiness to, &c.

May 2. 1663.

ORINDA.

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LETTER

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## LETTER XXX.

I Am sorry Sir FRANCIS LLOYD intends to contest your Election: Sure 'tis a Fate upon us, that whatever we design for your Service, should turn to your Trouble and Vexation: But I dare assure you that ANTENOR has been so careful in his Management of that Affair, as not to give the contrary Party the least Pretence of Cavil and Dispute: For besides that he knew they waited only for such an Occasion, he has too great a Value for POLIARCHUS, to expose him to appear in publick on an indirect Account, or in a Cause in which there was the least Appearance he should be baffled. Believe, therefore, that your Election is as free from

Orinda to Polixarchus. 145

from all just Exceptions, as it was far from your Expectations; and that you are not a Person whom we would engage in a Contest, were there not all the Right in the World on your side to bring you off. ANTENOR allow'd all the Persons to vote whom they pretended had a Right to do so, many of which he might justly have excepted against, only to convince them that the utmost of their Strength was insufficient to cope with his Interest, and to prevent all After-Disputes. But as Sir FRANCIS has deceiv'd me in the Opinion I had, that he would not have the Confidence to contest the Election; so I doubt not but he will be disappointed himself in thinking to set it aside. And now to the rest of your obliging Letter. I think that since you intend to present a

L

POMPEY

POMPEY to the King, you are in the right to design that Copy for him that was intended for the Dutchess, and to get another ready for her as soon as possible; but why need my Advice be ask'd in this matter? sure POLIARCHUS is not now to be told that he may dispose of any thing belongs to ORINDA without these Formalities. I intend to send you by the first Opportunity a Miscellaneous Collection of Poems, printed here; among which, to fill up the Number of his Sheets, and as a Foil to the others, the Printer has thought fit, tho' without my Consent or Privity, to publish two or three Poems of mine, that had been stolen from me; but the others are worth your reading. You shall likewise have at the same time all the Prologues  
and



Orinda to Poliarchus. 147

and Epilogues that were sent me for POMPEY, and all the complementing Verses I receiv'd on that Translation; together with a Prologue spoken the other day to a Play that was acted before my Lord Lieutenant, in which the Poet has taken occasion to flatter me on account of POMPEY. I thank you for the Care you take to make me perfect in a Language that I am so fond of, for his sake who first encourag'd me to learn it, and gave me the first Rudiments of it. But above all your Kindnesses, I am most oblig'd to you for the friendly Desire you express in every Letter of seeing me in LONDON. In return be pleas'd to be assur'd, that the chiefest Motive to induce me to wish my self there, is the Opportunity it would give

me of your Conversation : And I think you know me well enough to believe, tho' I covet that Happiness ever so much, yet I know my self unworthy of so great a Blessing, or indeed unfit for any thing but to converse with the Rocks and Mountains, where Fate has allotted me my Abode ; however, I shall most gladly contribute all I can to procure my self so unspeakable an Advantage ; if Friends so dear to me as my Lady CORK, ROSANIA and POLIARCHUS, are pleas'd to think it worth their while to be troubled with my dull Company. I will flatter my self that when they next meet, they will easily contrive some way to bring me among them, that may not be prejudicial to ANTENOR's Affairs, nor thwart my willing Compliance with his Fortunes :  
But

Orinda to Poliarchus. 149

But I will say no more of this till my Lady CORK comes up, and then I hope you three will meet in a Committee to consult about it, and let me know your Resolves. Mean while, I desire you to confer with the Trojan on this Subject, to whom I have written concerning it, and intreated him to impart to you my whole Thoughts of this matter, of which, whenever you write any thing to me, let it be in *Italian*. We have no News here, and if we had, how could you expect it, who never send me any? *I have many things to say, which it will be more proper for me to write after I am come home.* When I have wound up my little Affairs here so as to be able to give ANTENOR a good Account of my long stay in this Country, I will set sail for MILFORD,

# 150 Letters from

which, I hope, will be in a short time; but as soon as a Day is fix'd for my Departure hence, you shall not fail to know it: Mean while I am and ever will be, &c.

May 15. 1663.

ORINDA.

LETTER



LETTER XXXI.

**Y**esterday your Letter of the  
sixteenth instant came to my  
Hands, and gave me (what any of  
yours very seldom do) some trou-  
ble, to hear that you were a little  
discourag'd about the Election; and  
because there was some Appearance  
that it might be question'd, you  
were unwilling to assert your Right.  
I beg of you not to be dishearten'd,  
but believe that ANTENOR would  
have quietly yielded up the Election  
to Sir FRANCIS LLOYD, and have  
given him to boot all he has in the  
World, rather than have expos'd  
you to a Disappointment: And had  
he not been before-hand morally  
assur'd of his Interest, he would ne-  
ver have propos'd you for a Candi-

date. I hope, therefore, that since you are fairly chosen by a great Majority of such as have an undoubted Right to elect, you will not quietly give up the Cudgels, especially knowing your self to have so great an Interest in the House, as gives you not the least room to suspect that you can have any foul Play offer'd you there. I thank you for presenting POMPEY to his MAJESTY, and for the favourable Account you give me of his Royal Goodness for that Trifle. I consent to whatever you think fit to do about printing it, but conjure you by all our mutual Friendship, not to put my Name to it, nay, not so much as the least mark or hint whereby the Publick may guess from whence it came; for could I have prevail'd with my self so far as to have made my Name publick  
in

Orinda to Poliarchus. 153

in print, I would have beg'd the Dutchess's Leave to have laid it at her Feet in a Dedication: But since that is not to be done without a Name subscrib'd, I have taken the Resolution rather to seem rude in her Opinion, than so confident both in hers and the World's, as to imagine that any thing I could produce were worthy her Acceptance and Protection, or the Notice or Regard of the Publick. But I remember to have seen some *French Books*, without any formal Dedication, where there was in the Title Page, *Dedié à Madame la Princesse, &c.* or the like, why may not we do so too, and say for Example, in the Title Page of POMPEY, *Humbly dedicated to her Royal Highness the Dutchess of YORK*, and no more. If you think this be proper, let it be so; for I am in a  
great

great streight between the Desire I have to appear intirely devoted to the Dutcheſs, and not to appear at all in my true Colours to the World. I leave it intirely to you, and if you reſolve on this, you need not preſent her that Copy which Mrs BLACKWELL brings, but one from the Preſs at LONDON. I think it needleſs to print the Preface that was printed here, but inſtead of it let the Bookſeller ſay ſomething in relation to his reprinting it. I ſhall be going for WALES as ſoon as a Tryal I have in the Court of Claims here is over: 'Tis ſet down for the tenth of next Month, and then nothing but a contrary Wind ſhall detain me a Moment. Mean while I ſhall continue to give you notice of all my Motions, there being no Man in the World with whom I would  
more



## Orinda to Poliarchus. 155

more willingly hold a Correspondence with all the Freedom of Friendship than with the most generous POLIARCHUS, whose Esteem and Good-will shall ever be cherish'd in the highest degree by, &c.

23d May.

ORINDA.

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LETTER

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## LETTER XXXII.

I Am glad to be assur'd by yours of the twentieth of May, which I receiv'd by the last Post, that you have so just an Opinion of ANTE-NOR's and ORINDA's Respects for you, as to believe it impossible for them to expose you to a disputable Election. I cannot yet think that Sir FRANCIS LLOYD will venture to contest it with you before a Committee, where you are so well known, that he cannot expect that his Interest should prevail over the Justice of your Cause, and where his Craft and Confidence will not in the least avail him. I am indeed accusom'd to strange and unexpected Revolutions, and begin to think nothing wonderful, but should

Orinda to Poliarchus 17

should not be able to resist my  
Amazement, if so much Favour should  
should get the better of the Truth.  
I lay this Affair of yours so deeply  
to Heart, that I know not any thing  
that depends on my future Fortune,  
for the event whereof I am so much  
concern'd, as for your getting the  
Victory over your Antagonist; and  
this you will allow to be no small  
Mark of my Esteem for you, since  
on *Tuesday* sevensnight I am to have  
two Trials for all ANTENOR's Con-  
cerns in IRELAND. I am glad you  
are so well pleas'd with the Songs;  
the fifth of them, which is one of  
those that PHILASTER compos'd, he  
recommends to you as his particular  
Favourite: The Composition is be-  
tween *Recitative* and *Air*, and hu-  
mours the variety of it so well, that  
all here are extremely taken with it;  
particularly my Lady CORK, who  
sings

sing very well, and is as good a Judge of vocal Musick as the best of them. *The Adventures of five hours* was snatch'd from me for Mr. OGILBY, to have it acted here, almost before I had read it over. If the second Part of HUDIBRAS be equal to the first, nothing can be equal to it, but I fear no PEGASUS is able to hold out so long in such a strain. I am vex'd you meet with so much Trouble about the printing of POMPEY, certainly it was conceiv'd in an angry Hour; the Players fell out about it here, and so, it seems, the Printers do at LONDON: If CROOK will reprint it he ought to give me some Copies; if he will not, why should he quarrel with one that will? The best on't is, between 'em both it may perhaps be never made more publick than it is: I am sure it had  
been



Orinda to Poliarchus. 159

been more to my Advantage had it never been printed, than the selling it will be to either of them: But if it be condemn'd to undergo the Press once more, pray take into consideration what I writ to you lately concerning the manner of a Dedication. Sir EDWARD DERING has desir'd me to ask your Opinion concerning these two Lines in the last Scene of the Play:

*I know I gain another Diadem,  
For which none can be blam'd but  
Heav'n and him.*

His Objection is, that *him* is scarce Grammar; he says it should be *he*: I am not Critick enough to resolve this Doubt, and therefore leave it wholly to your Determination. I hear the Confederate Translators intend to have theirs shortly acted, of which

which I would fain know the Truth. Mr. WALLER has assur'd me that he is so far from resenting my having undertaken that Translation, that if the Act done by him ever come upon the Stage, he will borrow some of my Lines to mix with his own. A Complement I can never deserve, but becoming his great Civility, and which I would acknowledge if I knew how. But I am more at a loss how I shall ever make you Amends for all the Troubles you receive from, &c.

June 3. 1663.

ORINDA.

LETTER

LETTER XXXIII.

**I** Have chosen this Restraint of Paper to confine me to a short Letter, which I sometimes promise you and seldom perform; but must now be as good as my Word, being a Woman of great Affairs and in mighty haste: I have receiv'd your kind Letter, tho' not timely enough to the tenth of *June*, yet before the absolute Determination of my Business; for by the great Goodness of the Commissioners we had a farther Day allow'd us, that we might say all we could for our Pretensions at Law, and what will yet become of it I know not, but own I am a little doubtful of the Success, because the Case is indeed a little perplex'd and intricate: If

M                      you

you have a mind to be troubled with the whole Detail of it, the *Trojan* to whom I have written it will tell it you, and save both of us the Trouble, you of reading, and me of writing a tedious Narrative here: Only this I cannot forbear, that I have got one of the Causes already, and the other is undetermin'd, and this Day to be argu'd at Law; and if we should come by the worst on't, my Comfort is, 'tis but for the Thirds of a small Estate for an old Woman's Life. SIR ALLEN BRODERICK came to me on the Receipt of yours, with great Professions of Service, which I believe him ready to make good as far as Justice and Honour will permit, and more I will never desire of him or any Man living. I must now tell you a pleasant Adventure of your Grandfather, who  
having



Orinda to Poliarchus. 163

having manfully conducted me into the Court, and offer'd his whole Company to be my Affidavit-Men, if I had occasion for them, no sooner laid Eyes on my Adversary, who is indeed a pretty Woman, than he was smitten to the Heart, and forsook me in the Eyes of the whole World, making his Addresses to her publickly in the Court; and to compleat all, gallanted her home in his Coach, and left me to shift for my self, and get away as I could. Judge if he have not taken full Revenge for the *Rebus* I made of him. I long to hear your Success at the Committee; for tho' knowing the Justice of your Cause I cannot much doubt it; yet we must be in pain for what we most wish and desire, till we are certain of the Event. I have not heard from WALES these three Weeks, whence I conjecture

that ANTENOR is gone to LONDON in order to serve you at the Hearing; if so; I hope it will be a means of gaining him your Acquaintance more particularly, which is one of the greatest Advantages I can wish him. There is a Plot discover'd here, but what to make of it I know not; and indeed 'tis so unlucky an Age for Plots, that even those on the Stage cannot thrive: For the Players disband apace, and I am afraid you will shortly see a Farce, or a Puppet-show at LONDON, call'd *IRELAND in ridicule*; wherein all the Plays will be repeated, and the Actors themselves acted in Burlesque. Then POMPEY will be squeak'd out in a Tone as lamentable as the Language; and, unless you prevent it, the very Puppets will take Example by the Printers, and fall out among themselves, whether CÆSAR or PTOLOMY

Orinda to Poliarchus. 165

PTOLOMY shall have the best Hobby-Horse. But to be serious: Since you approve the Method I propos'd of inscribing it to her Royal Highness, I am a little concern'd to have it reprinted; it can scarce be more expos'd than it has been already, and I would have it so, more to the purpose; and therefore if CROOK does not intend to reprint it, I know not what Right he can pretend to hinder HERRINGMAN, whom, I think, you may safely warrant in the printing it, if he be willing to pursue his first Intentions. My Lady Roscommon is gone into the Country, and I know not whether I shall ever see her more; but must always acknowledge to have found her one of the most generous and obliging Persons I ever met with: If I had gain'd nothing but her Friendship by my coming into IRELAND, I should not

# 166 Letters from

think I had lost my Labour. By this time you see what the *English* of a short Letter is, when I write to POLIARCHUS; but tho' I cannot keep my word in that, I am sure I shall in the Profession I make of being all my Life, &c.

ORINDA.

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LETTER



LETTER XXXIV.

**I** Am overjoy'd to hear of the Victory you have gain'd at the Committee, tho' I could foresee no less both from the Equity of your Cause, and the Interest you had to support it; but what pleases me most is, that the Proofs were so clear, that even Mr. VAUGHAN with all his Cunning was forc'd to second whom he could not resist. I am very glad too that ANTENOR was present; for though I knew he would never decline any thing that might tend to the Service of so dear and noble a Friend to us as POLIARCHUS, yet I was not certain what Impossibilities he might meet with in that Attempt, thro' want

of Health, or somewhat of that nature. Sir FRANCIS has now made himself as ridiculous in LONDON, as he is in the Country, and done you and ANTENOR all the Right he could have study'd to do you. But I have not so good News to send you of my Success here, for I have this very Day lost the last of my Causes, which however is of far less Importance than that in which I got the better, it being only for the Dower of a Widow of seventy Years of Age, and the other for the whole Estate of Inheritance. But what vexes me most is, that I lost even this Cause by the Negligence of Persons equally concern'd; and whose Business it was to have taken care to get Witnesses who liv'd in the Country. For tho' the Commis-  
sioners

Orinda to Poliarchus. 169

sioners shew'd us all the Favour they could, yet for want of Evidence to prove the Widow innocent, which they through Covetousness or Carelessness neglected to do, we were put upon this moot Point, whether the Husband's Guilt debarr'd the Wife of her Dower? which was carry'd against us, because she derives from Law, not from her Husband: So we must be troubled with this old Woman's Thirds during her Life. I have secur'd a Vessel, and am to imbark next Week for MILFORD, where I expect to find ANTENOR, with whom I hope you will use your Endeavours to facilitate my coming to LONDON, if you continue in the same Mind that you have often so kindly express'd to me in your Letters. You must contrive some plausible Pretence to  
make

make him believe, that by being there I might be very useful to his Affairs by the means of your Friendship, and by the Assistance of my other Friends. You know how to manage this Matter, but if you please consult with my Brother concerning it, before you mention it to my Husband. He will inform you of the Method it will be most proper to follow. I confess I desire with great Earnestness to see you once more, but that Happiness must be procur'd me by your Management and Conduct; or not at all. Answer me to this Particular in Italian. This puts me in mind of Morose, answer me not but with your Leg. You see what conversing with you can inspire. This is the first pleasant Imagination I have had to Day, tho' the Recepit of your Letter brought me



## Orinda to Poliarchus. 171

me more Content, for that made  
me glad, and I am now but mer-  
ry. Adieu, dear POLIARCHUS, and  
believe me ever, &c.

ORINDA.

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LETTER

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## LETTER XXXV.

**T**Ho' I am in a great Hurry and Trouble, as you may easily imagine, being within this Hour to go Aboard for MILFORD, yet I could not omit the Temptation of this Post to acquaint you with it; and intreat you to let me hear from you by the old Direction to CARDIGAN, with a Constancy worthy of your generous Friendship, and my inestimable Value for it. Particularly let me have your Answer in *Italian* concerning what I writ to you in my two last Letters, and which I have not now time to repeat; but believe you enough understand me, who am while I have Breath, &c.

July 15.

ORINDA  
LETTER

LETTER XXXVI.

**I** Take an Opportunity of writing to you by a private Hand, because the Post is so very unsafe, that I fear many of mine, and yours too, which are of ten times more Importance, have miscarry'd: but because we have no other way to depend on constantly, I must beg you to make so effectual a Complaint, as may not only produce a greater Conveniency and Ease to our Correspondence, but be likewise a Help to the whole Country; for the Grievance is now become so general, that the Grand Jury at CARMARTHEN, have presented Mr. ONEAL, the Post-Master General, for his Misdemeanours in that Office, by which several trading Persons

sons have been almost ruin'd ; for their Letters either miscarrying, or coming too late to their Hands, has put them to such Streights in their Business, that they have been undone by it. The Persons who keep the Stages on the Roads complain they are not paid ; if that be true, who can blame them for being remiss in their Duty ? If it be objected that the MILFORD Post will not clear Charges, you may answer, that their own Neglect is the cause of it ; for the Country is so discourag'd by the Uncertainty and Neglectfulness of the Post, that they chuse rather, when they have any Business of Moment, to send a Messenger on purpose to LONDON, than trust the Post with it ; and this has been often observ'd to be even a more expeditious Method. We had rather pay more for our Letters, than



Orinda to Poliarchus. 175

than be us'd at the scandalous rate  
we now are; and therefore, Sir,  
pray give Mr. ONEALE no rest, till  
this Abuse be thoroughly reform'd;  
and if you find no Redress from  
him, acquaint the Duke of YORK  
with it, who I am sure will not  
suffer us to be thus abus'd by his  
Officers, and whose Revenue suffers  
by it in the main. Pardon this Trou-  
ble on account of the Earnest De-  
fire I have of conversing with you  
with more certainty, while I am  
at such a distance from you, as will  
allow me no other way, which I  
yet hope will not be long; for  
ANTENOR has with great Acknow-  
ledgments of your Kindness assur'd  
me how generously you concern'd  
your self in his particular Affairs,  
and not only gave him your Ad-  
vice, but promis'd your Assistance  
in procuring him so advantageous a  
Post,

Post, as might help to disengage his Estate, and countenance our Journey to a Place, which tho' it be my native one, is not so dear to me on that account, as because it will give me an Opportunity to converse with some few worthy Friends, of which Number POLIARCHUS may be assur'd he is one of the first. I have already taken the Freedom to tell you, how things stand with us in relation to our Estate, and how just a Desire I had to receive no Satisfaction my self, which must be prejudicial to my dear ANTENOR; that therefore I could not propose to my self any way to recover the Happiness of your Company, unless I had a Prospect at the same time of doing him some Service; for I should never be able to endure the inward Reproach of not having promoted his Interest to the utmost of my Power.

Orinda to Poliarchus. 177

Power. His too generous and publick Spirit in the Service of his Country has been so destructive to his Fortune, that he cannot without utter Ruine, leave the little Concern he has here, unless he have a Prospect of such Advantages elsewhere, as may make Amends for his Absence, and help him to get rid of his Incumbrances. Since therefore you and our other Friends give us reason to believe, that I may promote such an end, and since you are pleas'd to promise your generous Assistance, I refer my self wholly to you and my Brother PHILIPS, whom ANTENOR has desir'd to look out for something that might deserve our Endeavours to get it. My Lady CORK told me in DUBLIN, that she would not rest till she had got me to LONDON, and would consult with you how to bring it about;

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ROSANIA

ROSANIA too I'm sure will lend her helping hand, and be content to be troubled with me; so that if you three, together with my Brother, will consult of the Measures proper to be taken in this matter, I'm sure it may be effected. For you know nothing is desir'd here but such a Proposal as may reward and countenance the Journey, which must nevertheless have your Request to colour the undertaking it. ANTENOR is brim full of your Goodness and Friendship to him; he talks of nothing with so much Content, and I can hear of nothing with more. But let me not forget to tell you before I conclude, that I have seen the second and fourth Acts of POMPEY that was translated by the Wits, and have read and consider'd them very impartially; the Expressions are some of them great and noble,  
and



Orinda to Poliarchus. 179

and the Verses smooth; yet there is room in several places for an ordinary Critick to shew his Skill. But I cannot but be surpriz'd at the great Liberty they have taken in adding, omitting and altering the Original as they please themselves: This I take to be a Liberty not pardonable in Translators, and unbecoming the Modesty of that Attempt: For since the different ways of writing ought to be observ'd with their several Proprieties, this way of garbling Authors is fitter for a Paraphrase than a Translation; but having assum'd so great a Licence, I wonder their Verses are any where either flat or rough, which you will observe them not seldom to be; besides, their Rhymes are frequently very bad, but what chiefly disgusts me is, that the Sence most commonly languishes through three or four Lines, and

then ends in the middle of the fifth: For I am of Opinion, that the Sence ought always to be confin'd to the Couplet, otherwise the Lines must needs be spiritless and dull. I wish you could procure me the third and fifth Acts, for I long to see them, especially the third, which I take to be the most noble and best written in the *French*. I am impatient likewise to hear your Thoughts of that Translation. You know me as far from Envy, as those Gentlemen are above it, and therefore will not impute the Freedom I have taken in these Remarks to that or any other Passion, but purely to my Opinion, and the Liberty I take of telling it to so intimate a Friend as POLIARCHUS; for after all I really think the worst of their Lines equal to the best in my Translation. If that Play had tir'd the Spectators as much

Orinda to Poliarchus. 181

much as my Letter has you, they would have given it but a cold Reception; but you, I know, will pardon all the Troubles that you have created to your self, and encourag'd from her that is more than any body in the whole World, &c.

September 17. 1663.

ORINDA.

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N 3

LETTER

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## LETTER XXXVII.

**I** Writ to you so much at large by a private Hand last Week, that I have little now to add, not having heard from you since you writ to me from OXFORD: However, had I nothing to say but my humble Request that I may constantly hear from you, that were Business enough to create you this Trouble, since I esteem that Happiness as the greatest Advantage I could procure for my self. I hope the Court's Progress is now ended, and that this will find you fix'd in Town, where you are like to be often mortify'd with Impertinences like this; and when you grow weary of them,  
you



Orinda to Poliarchus. 1183

you must tell me so, for without an absolute Prohibition I cannot resign a Privilege you have not only permitted, but even commanded me to use. My Lady TYRREL promis'd to tell you several things of CALANTHE, which were not fit to be written; I too have many Adventures to relate to you, which for the same Reason you cannot know till I see you. I have heard from ROSANIA since I did from you: She tells me that POLIARCHUS and she must lay their Heads together to contrive some way to see ORINDA; but I have written of this so fully in my last, that I will now only add, that tho' ANTENOR's Interest and my Desires to serve him be the chief Inducement; yet next to that, nothing makes me more covet that Happiness, than because it will

184 *Letters from* O

enable me to assure you, without the Assistance of our Knavish Post, that I am eternally, &c.

September 25. 1663.

O R I N D A.

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• LETTER

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LETTER XXXVIII.

**I** Receiv'd one from you without a Date, but as your Quibble prophesy'd, it was deliver'd of its big Belly very safely: The Letters you knew not were from two of my Lord of CORK's Daughters, who by me ask your Pardon for the Trouble they gave you of that Conveyance, which I know they will easily obtain, because it was at my Request they did it. And now, Sir, I must return you a thousand Acknowledgments for all your Concern both for my self and my ANTE-NOR; and assure you, there are not in the World two Persons who honour POLIARCHUS more than we, or whose Hearts are more zealously inclin'd to his Service. ANTENOR  
had

had the Commissions out according to his Desire, and is even confounded with the sense of your Goodness to him, which, I confess, pleases me extremely; for valuing you so much as I do, and being oblig'd to you so much as I am, what should I do, if he did not help me to bear the Weight of so many Favours, which 'tis equally impossible for me or both of us either to forget or repay. He remembers well what you told him relating to his own Concerns, and has mention'd it several times with the highest Sense of Gratitude for your Friendship in those Expressions. He is now putting his shatter'd Affairs into some new Model, in order to leave his little All as clear as he found it; and I believe it will require the best part of this Winter to reduce his long-neglected Business



Orinda to Poliarchus. 187

ness into such a Method, as will admit his Absence from hence. His late Indispositions and other Accidents, that threw him into some Remissness of his own Concerns, have brought them into such a Disorder, as will not easily be regulated. Several successive Crosses had so unhing'd his Care and Industry, that his Enemies insulted over him, as if his Heart had been quite broken, and his Tenants and Servants us'd him as they pleas'd. But I thank God, I find him now quite another Person than when I came last from LONDON. The good Fortune he had to carry the Election for you was the first time that any of his Relations took notice, that he began to resume his former Heart and Resolution, which he has ever since preserv'd by doing all things with his wonted Care and Courage;

rage ; so that I make no question but God has some Blessings in store for us, since he has been pleas'd to put him again into the Humour and Capacity of Business, for which no Man is more naturally fit than himself. I know you will excuse this familiar Narrative of our private Circumstances, since you cannot desire to be ignorant of the Affairs of Persons, in which your own Goodness and Generosity, as well as our Gratitude, have interested you so much. But the Truth is, as the *Trojan* can tell you, I know not yet how it will be possible for ANTENOR to unravel his entangled and confus'd Concerns, as to be able to come to Town this Winter, and I should be very unwilling to leave him ; nor indeed would it appear well to the World, if we should part so soon, after having  
been

Orinda to Poliarchus. 189

been so long asunder. Therefore I must stay till the Spring, and then, if his Affairs will not permit him, I know he will give me leave to go without him, if he can have from you, whom he so much honours, any Invitation and probable Persuasion that I may do him some Service there, that will reward and excuse the Journey. This was the reason that in my last Letter I mention'd a Desire of having some particular thing fix'd on by the *Trojan*; for you know, that Particulars are always more effectual and persuasive than things said in General, and therefore may sooner induce him to permit my attempting them. I refer it wholly to you, and desire your Opinion of it with your usual Friendship and Freedom. I have already assur'd him of the Generosity and Goodness of my Lady

CORK

CORK and ROSANIA, and that they will be willing to assist you with their Interest in our behalf; so that it must be something much more difficult than any thing in question, that can resist the united Forces of you three. But I have dwelt so long on this Subject, that I fear I have quite tir'd you; yet you may be sure I would not have done it with any other Design or greater Ambition, than that I might tire you yet more with my Conversation, which nevertheless I own to be so dull and tasteless, that you might justly decline giving your Vote, much more your Help, to have it again. But when you deny me either of them, I shall soon lose the Desire of coming to Town, having nothing more in my Eye by that Journey, than to recover the Opportunity of conversing with so  
excellent



excellent a Friend, who in all the  
Conditions and Places wherein I  
can be, may be assur'd that ORINDA  
is, &c.

Octob. 2. 1663.  
I have since I came from  
the place, and have written six  
times to you, and yet the reason  
why we you have had but two,  
and the reason is that you

will write no more: but pray  
where's the justice of revenging on  
me the villainous neglects of the  
Post? Get but that Quittance once  
redress'd, and you will have no re-  
medy. **LETTER** I am sorry for  
my boy of you to let alone in in  
earnest: for since I am not like to  
see you till the spring, I am not like to  
be much to have the Post return  
to its former civility. My Lady  
Cora is now in town, and she  
the you to wait on her, and she  
your

## LETTER XXXIX.

I Have since I came from IRELAND receiv'd from you in all but five Letters, and have written six times to you; and yet the *Trojan* tells me you have had but two, and are grown so stout that you will write no more: But pray where's the Justice of revenging on me the villainous Neglects of the Post? Get but that Grievance once redress'd, and you will have no reason to complain of my Silence. Let me beg of you to set about it in earnest; for since I am not like to see you till the Spring, it concerns me much to have the Post restor'd to its former certainty. My Lady CORK is now in Town, and I desire you to wait on her, and use  
your

Orinda to Poliarchus. 193

your utmost Eloquence to express the Sense I have of the Merits of that noble Family, and of the infinite Obligations they have laid upon me; and when you think it proper give my Lady an occasion of expressing her self on the Subject I mention'd formerly, that she would join with you in assisting the Design of my coming to LONDON, and discover if you can, whether she is pleas'd to preserve the generous Intentions of Kindness she so nobly assur'd me of in DUBLIN, as well in general, as in that particular of which I now speak. Our dear Friend ROSANIA too will, I believe, be in Town as soon as this Letter, and whatever you three resolve on shall be at once my Prescription and Happiness. I have already in several of my former Letters told you all my Thoughts on

O

this

this matter, and will not at this time repeat any thing but my Wishes, that once before I die, Providence will allow me to see POLIARCHUS, ROSANIA, and the noble Family I but now mention'd. This comes to you by a Foot-Post of ours, whose Return, I hope, will bring me an account of you; and if you can send me the third or fifth Act of the new POMPEY, it will much oblige me. The next I write shall give you my second Thoughts of the two Acts I have already, after a most diligent and strict perusal of them; but I would fain have your Sense of the whole, now you have seen it acted; for I am not to be bias'd or sway'd in my Opinion by the common Judgment of the Town; being of Mr. COWLEY's Mind, that the Creatures of the Theatre are govern'd by Fortune,



## Orinda to Poliarchus. 195

as well as all other things. PHILASTER, I hear, is in LONDON, his Name, as HUDIBRAS says, being

*Register'd with Fame eternal,  
In deathless Pages of diurnal.*

I expected to have heard from him e'er now. If you have TASSO's AMINTA pray send it me to read: You may thank your self for encouraging by your own Commands the Confidence of this Request, after so many Favours of the same kind that I have receiv'd already; but how much soever I trespass on your Goodness, 'tis always with the inward Assurance, that I am to the greatest degree, &c.

Octob. 13. 1653.

ORINDA.

O 2 LETTER

## LETTER XL.

**Y**OUR Silence for a whole Month and more troubles me so much, that I know not what to say to you, nor how to resolve whether this Misfortune be the Effect of your Unkindness, or the Injustice of the Post. 'Tis certain I have receiv'd but one Letter from you since your Return to LONDON, and in that was enclos'd one from my Lady ELIZABETH BOYLE out of IRELAND. Since that I have written several to you, both by the Post and private Hands, but have never had the Satisfaction to know whether you receiv'd them or not. Sometimes I am melancholy enough to fancy that I gave you too much Trouble about our private Affairs,  
and

Orinda to Poliarchus. 197

and us'd you with too much Familiarity for you to pardon; and that from hence proceeds this your unusual Silence. If so, you may be assur'd that I have suffer'd enough by this dumb way of Punishment, and therefore let me intreat you to write now, even tho' it be to chide, rather than be silent any longer. To correspond with you is so great an Advantage to me, that I shall not part with it upon easie Terms; and therefore you must downright forbid my importuning you before I can learn so much good Manners: But I still hope that POLIARCHUS has Friendship enough for ORINDA to hold out against all her Weaknesses; and that he would never have given her such convincing Proofs of his being her Friend, if he had not intended to continue so for ever. I promise my self, there-

fore, that I shall hear again from you, and particularly desire your Answers to these Questions, Whether we shall have any Redress in our Post-Grievance? Whether you have seen the CORK Family, and how you like their Acquaintance? But chiefly, whether you repent not of your most obliging Concern for one who merits your Goodness so little, and trys it so much, as, &c.

13 Novemb, 1663.

ORINDA,

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LETTER



LETTER XLI.

**I** Purposely neglected to answer yours of the second of *November* by last Post, hoping that your Commands would inspire me with something worthy your Perusal ; but I find upon Trial that I am now grown so dull, so heavy, and, in a word, so good for nothing, that neither my Importunities, nor your Intercessions, will prevail with the Muses to be kind to me in any Attempt of the nature you prescribe ; but because you shall see how great a Power all your Desires have over me, I am contented to expose my self, as you will find by

the inclos'd Copy of Verses, to any Censure, rather than that of Disobedience. I know to whom I send them, and that you are so much my Friend as to conceal, or correct them so as to make them capable of Pardon, which now I am sure they are not. I leave them therefore wholly to your Mercy, of which you can give no greater an Instance, than by committing to the Flames a Paper, which, I fear, is past all Correction. And this I must injoin you to do, if any other Poem has been seen on the same Subject; for then I am sure this would appear with as much Disgrace, as covers my poor Translation of POMPEY, since the Lustre of the other obscur'd it. But if no other Person has been  
before-

Orinda to Poliarchus. 201

before-hand with me, and you resolve to expose me, be pleas'd to make me address my self not as I do, but as I ought to do to so great and sacred a Person. I know how difficult it is to speak of Princes as we ought; how much more difficult is it then for one born and bred in so rude and dark a Retreat as I have been, to accost them in such a manner as to deserve their Pardon? But to make the Muses talk impertinently in such a Presence is what I blush to think on, and could never have had the Confidence to send the inclos'd Paper of Verses to any but POLIARCHUS, who has Skill and Judgment enough to refine and mend them, or if he think them not worth the Pains, is Friend enough to suppress

press them. All I desire is, that when you read this Poem, you will not condemn me for a Dulness that you will find growing upon me, but consider, that my Absence from all the Conversation that can refine my Wit, the Employments of a Country Life, and the Uneasinesses of my Fortune, are able to blunt a much finer Pen than ever I was Mistress of. And indeed I find the Weights of my Misfortunes sink me down so low, that unless I am quickly restor'd to the refreshing Charms of your Company, I shall be past Recovery and incapable of enjoying it. I will therefore not despair, but that my kinder Stars have yet reserv'd so much good Fortune in store for me; which, if it ever happens, I shall then speak better Sense,



## Orinda to Poliarchus. 203

Sense, and in all Respects have  
more Pretence to the Honour of  
subscribing my self, &c.

November 28. 1663.

ORINDA.

LETTER

## LETTER XLII.

ON the twenty first instant I receiv'd yours of no Date; but if my Supposition be true, that 'twas written the fifteenth, the Post is now so honest as to bring us our Letters in six Days; Pray God keep them in that good Mind. And now give me leave to quarrel with you heartily, for presenting the Copy of Verses to the Queen, and that too without making any Alteration in them, contrary to the Request I made you, when at the same time you knew very well that Mr. WALLER had employ'd his Muse on the same Subject. I protest I never writ any thing with more Distrust of my self, but am resolv'd to give you

Orinda to Poliarchus. 205

you now a greater Proof of my  
Complaifance, than I did then of  
my Obedience, by altering my  
Judgment by yours, and rather be-  
lieving it poffible that I could fay  
fomething in thofe Lines not un-  
luckily, than that you could be fo  
much mistaken as to believe fo,  
if it had been altogether other-  
wife. And indeed Mr. WALLER  
has, it may be, contributed not a  
little to encourage me in this Va-  
nity, by writing on the fame Sub-  
ject the worft Verfes that ever fell  
from his Pen. I could be an out-  
rageous Critick upon them, if I  
were not restrain'd by other Con-  
fiderations: But fure he, who is fo  
civil to the Ladies, had heard that  
I design'd fuch an Addrefs, and  
contenting himfelf with having got  
fo much the Advantage of me in  
POMPEY, was willing to yield me  
this

this Mate at Chess, and to write ill on purpose to keep me in Countenance. I remember I have been told that he once said, he would have given all his own Poems to have been the Author of that which my Lady NEWCASTLE writ of a Stag : And that being tax'd for this Insincerity by one of his Friends, he answer'd, that he could do no less in Gallantry than be willing to devote all his own Papers to save the Reputation of a Lady, and keep her from the Disgrace of having written any thing so ill. Some such Repartee I expect he would make on this occasion ; but I fear I have lost his Favour for ever in having twice trod in his Steps by writing on Subjects he had chosen ; and if the King decided this last so much to my Advantage, as  
you



Orinda to Poliarchus. 207

you represent, I am confident  
Mr. WALLER will never forgive  
me his Misfortune, which really  
troubles me, for I should always  
be more proud of his Friendship  
than of a great Applause; not that  
I am so mortify'd to this World as  
to be insensible of the infinite Ho-  
nour their MAJESTY'S have done  
me in receiving so very graciously  
that worthless Tribute from the  
humblest of their Subjects. No,  
I look on it with a Joy and Re-  
verence next to that I have for the  
Divine Goodness: And as a Gen-  
tleman said lately,

*The People much approve  
Those Priests that for 'em pray  
to Gods they love.*

So you may be sure there is abun-  
dance of my Thanks and Gratitude  
due

due to you even for this single act, this most generous way of laying me at their Majesty's Feet, adorn'd with your Concern, and assisted with your Mediation to obtain such Favours from those Powers above, as I by that means have receiv'd. You and I still do what we ever did; you continually oblige, and I always receive the Obligation; and for ought I see it must ever be so; but 'tis not to every one that I would be thus oblig'd; and as you have a certain Right to do good to all the World, so you have a particular Ascendant over me, that makes me wear the Obligations you throw upon me as so many Ornaments, and grow proud of my Fetters. To add to the rest, I have this day receiv'd from you HUDIBRAS and AMINTA, which I am much pleas'd with and very  
thankful

## Orinda to Poliarchus. 209

thankful for; and beg of you to believe, I have such a sense of all your Favours, as would be much injur'd if it were attempted to be express'd; but yet is as impossible ever to be forgotten as to be acknowledg'd by, &c.

24 Decemb. 1663.

and I should know them to be  
ORINDA

generous, obliging, and to in-  
genious in their style, that no other  
person can imitate: Your last of  
the 21<sup>st</sup> of Decemb<sup>r</sup> particular

believes this character, and more  
Acknowledgements than his possi-

ble for me to make, or you to  
receive, unless you could look in-

stant and unpossessible. Give me  
P LETTER

and I shall be for all your fa-  
vours, which are multiplied upon

in Characters to deep and un-

## LETTER XLIII.

**W**ERE your Letters written in another Hand, and subscrib'd by another Name, yet the Cheat would not pass on me, and I should know them to be yours; for there is something so generous, so obliging, and so ingenious in their Stile, that no other Person can imitate it: Your last of the 26th of *December* particularly deserves this Character, and more Acknowledgments than 'tis possible for me to make, or you to receive; unless you could look into my Heart, and there read my infinite and unspeakable Gratitude and Thankfulness for all your Favours, which are imprinted there in Characters so deep and indelible,



Orinda to Poliarchus. 211

ble, that except I renounce all  
sense of the greatest Merit, and  
highest Obligations, I must retain  
for POLIARCHUS an immense and  
unchangeable Respect and Vene-  
ration: This it is that creates in me  
so longing a Desire to enjoy the  
sweets of his delightful Conversa-  
tion, that 'tis to me no small Af-  
fliction not to be able yet to fore-  
see when I may propose to my self  
the satisfaction of that Enjoyment.  
I find your Committee has met at  
last, and that you could not then  
pitch upon any thing to promote  
the Desire I have of being among  
you; and not only so, but me-  
thinks you speak as if there were  
something more in it than the on-  
ly missing to find a present Expe-  
dient to that purpose. When I  
press'd to have you meet in a Com-  
mittee, I did not expect a sudden

Inspiration should fall upon you to direct you to something that should infallibly answer our Desires; but my meaning was, that if, when you came to consult together, you found your selves to have Indulgence enough for me to be willing to be troubled with my Company, you might be thence forward a standing Committee to assist each other in furthering that Design as Opportunity should offer, or as I should see occasion to request it. But whether it be my Melancholy, or what other Reason I have for it I cannot tell, yet something there is that whispers me, that at your meeting you foresaw some greater Difficulty in that Affair than before, and whence that could proceed I know not, unless you discover'd, in one another an Indifference and Coldness towards me :

Orinda to Poliarchus. 213

me : This I desire to know, and particularly whether you found in my Lady CORK less Zeal and Willingness to oblige me than you expected, or than she has been often pleas'd to promise me ; that indeed would be a great Affliction to me, not so much on account of any Advantage I propose to make by means of her Interest, as for the Loss of her self ; for I can never value outward Conveniences as I do Persons, and the Loss of a Friendship is to me the greatest of all Losses. Be pleas'd therefore to let me know freely in your next, whether there be any Ground for this Apprehension, which my own Unworthiness makes me apt to entertain, tho' I cannot do it without being, in some measure, injurious to her, who has so particularly own'd me, who comman-

ded me to look on my self as always one of hers; who, of her self, without any hint of mine to that purpose, press'd my coming to LONDON very earnestly; who assur'd me she would contrive with you how to compass it without any Inconvenience to my Affairs, and would not rest till it were effected. You will allow all this to be ground enough for my desiring you to discourse with her concerning it; but if after all I am so unfortunate as to have her grow cool in her obliging Purposes to me, I must, tho' with much Regret, submit to the Stroke; and confess I owe all her Goodness so intirely to her own Pleasure, and have so little Title to it on my own account, that she may justly resume her Bounty, and place it on a worthier Object.

I am



Orinda to Poliarchus. 215

I am so uneasie till I know the Truth of this, that I beg you once more to put me out of my Pain by the very next Post : and if, as I hope, my Melancholy has deceiv'd me into this Fear, I will then tell you more concerning the other Affair, in which I should give you less Trouble, if ANTENOR's Business call'd him up to Town; but I cannot find he has the least Thoughts of it, unless he can be perswaded that my going might be of Advantage to his Interest. Now I am the unfittest Person in the World to be an Instrument in that Persuasion, because it must imply an Opinion of my own Power and Capacity to serve him, which I have no Reason to believe I have; and if I should fail in an Attempt of that nature, I should make him

more unhappy and my self ridiculous. I verily believe we shall never do any thing for him, till we are in Town, yet how to propose the Journey to him I know not; unless either something be found that 'tis probable may be effected for him, or that the general Opinion of his Friends in Town concur to persuade, that things of that nature are snatch'd up before they can be heard of at this distance; and that 'tis likely an Attendance at the Fountain-Head may soon find out and procure something for him, that may deserve the Hazard, Time, and Pains; and lastly, that 'twill be more prudent to resolve on that course, before the present hopes that are given me of an Interest and of being well receiv'd at Court, wither by Time, and are lost for

Orinda to Poliarchus. 217

want of laying hold on the Opportunity that now offers. If therefore betwixt this and next *March* no particular thing can be found out to encourage him, yet a general Vote of his Friends then, strengthen'd by the Opinion, Reasons and Desire of POLIARCHUS may very much incline him to venture on the Journey and Attempt ; but till that time draw near I'll say no more of it. I must now inform you, that 'twas not Neglect or Reservedness, but meerly Forgetfulness, that made me conceal from you what I have begun to translate from the HORACE of Monsieur CORNEILLE ; if you will lay your Commands on me to send it you, I will be sure to obey you ; and now the Post is become honest, I expect to hear weekly from you, which next  
to

to your friendship is the  
 greatest obligation you can lay  
 upon me. And now that  
 no particular thing can be found  
 out to encourage him, yet I  
 netal Vote of his friends then,  
 AND now by the Opinion, Res-  
 lute and Desire of POLARIS  
 may very much incline him to  
 venture on the Journey and Ac-  
 tempt: but till that time draw  
~~near I'll say no more of it.~~  
 must now inform you that I was  
 not Neglect or Retardation, but  
 merely Forgetfulness, that made  
 me forget from you what I have  
 begun to translate from the HORACE  
 of Monsieur CORNEILLE: if you  
 will say your Commands on me  
 to send it you, I will be sure to  
 obey you, and now the Post is  
~~before me, I expect to hear~~  
 weekly from you, which next  
 to



## LETTER XLIV.

**I** Am so oblig'd to you for the generous and friendly Concern you take in the unfortunate Accident of the unworthy publishing of my foolish Rhymes, that I know not which way to express, much less to deserve the least part of so noble an Obligation. PHILASTER gave me a hint of this Misfortune last Post, and I immediately took an Opportunity of expressing to him the great but just Affliction it was to me, and beg'd him to join with you in doing what I see your Friendship had urg'd you both to do without that Request; for which I now thank you, it being all that could be done to give me Ease, but the

Smart

Smart of that Wound still remains, and hurts my Mind. You may be assur'd I had obey'd you by writing after my old ill rate on the occasion you mention, had you not in your next Letter seem'd to have chang'd your Opinion, advising me rather to hasten to LONDON and vindicate my self by publishing a true Copy. Besides, I consider'd it would have been too airy a way of resenting such an Injury, and I could not be so soon reconcil'd to Verse, which has been so instrumental to afflict me, as to fall to it again already; however, if you still think it proper I will resign my Judgment and Humour to yours, and try what I can do that way. Mean while I have sent you \*inclos'd my true Thoughts on that Occa-

---

*bl* \* The following Letter, which was sent inclos'd in this.

Orinda to Poliarchus. 221

sion in Prose, and have mix'd  
nothing else with it, to the end  
that you may, if you please, shew  
it to any body that suspects my  
Ignorance and Innocence of that  
false Edition of my Verses; and I  
believe it will make a greater Im-  
pression on them, than if it were  
written in Rhyme: Besides, I am yet  
in too great a Passion to sollicite the  
Muses, and think I have at this  
time more reason to rail at them  
than court them; only that they  
are very innocent of all I write,  
and I can blame nothing but my  
own Folly and Idleness for ha-  
ving expos'd me to this Unhappi-  
ness; but of this no more till I  
hear from you again. I must now  
tell you, that the Affliction I am  
in is very much reliev'd by the  
Assurances you give me of the con-  
tinuance of my Lady CORK's Friend-  
ship

ship to me, and that neither my Absence nor Unworthiness have robb'd me of her Esteem. And as I am of your Opinion that my coming to Town may more probably effect something for ANTENOR, than my stay here; so I think it very adviseable to acquaint you, the Trojan thinks he has found out something fit for me to attempt, and that is very honourable and may be compass'd. ANTENOR too approves the Proposition, and begins to resolve upon my Journey, as soon as he can put his Affairs in a Posture for my settling things here, and my Accommodation there; but to quicken him in this, and confirm him in the other, I think it very necessary that in a Letter to him you should repeat the Assurances you have formerly given him, of your generous Friendship, and



Orinda to Poliarchus. 222

and acquaint him that I ought to  
hasten to Town as soon as possi-  
ble in order to sollicite for him  
the Affair the Trojan has found out;  
which you may likewise represent  
as an Advantage casie to be ob-  
tain'd, by promising him all the  
Assistance you have so often assur'd  
me of, and which he already doubts  
not but he shall receive from you.  
Such a Letter from you will be  
more prevalent with him, than the  
Persuasions of all the World be-  
sides, for he honours no Man so  
much as your self, nor with so  
much Justice. You see, Sir, how  
plain I am with you, and I hope  
you will by this Freedom measure  
the Friendship I have for you, and  
the Confidence I repose in you;  
for I certainly could never make  
this Request to any but your self,  
and yet I must make another to  
you

you that will be little less confident, and that is, that if my Lady CORK continue her Resolution of writing to me, you would prevail with her, as from your self, not from me, to do it in one inclos'd in your next; and therein if she please to express her self after her accustom'd obliging manner, by assuring me of her Friendship, and giving her Opinion that my coming may be advantageous to my self, and will not be unacceptable to her, I will shew her Letter to ANTENOR, who, I believe, will look on it as a new Motive for my Journey, and be highly oblig'd by it. Let me know what they say of me at Court and every where else, upon this last Accident, and whether the exposing all my Follies in this dreadful Shape has not frightened the whole World out of

all

Orinda to Poliarchus. 225

all their Esteem for me. I receiv'd  
last Night a most kind Letter from  
my Lord ORREY, wherein he is so  
partial as to speak of my Translation  
of POMPEY with Preference to the o-  
ther; you shall see what he writes  
when we meet next, which happy  
Moment I expect with the utmost  
Impatience; for to use the words of  
STEPHANO GUASTO, whose *Civili  
Conversazione* is a most excellent  
Book, and has often entertain'd me  
this Winter with great Delight, *You  
have render'd my Taste so delicate by  
the wonderful Charms of your Con-  
versation, that all other Company  
seems to be dull and insipid.* You  
cannot therefore much blame me  
either for my Eagerness to regain  
that Happiness, or my Tedioufness  
in conversing in this manner with  
a Person so much valu'd by all the  
World, and particularly by me to

Q

that

that infinite degree, that I can hardly find the way to that part of my Letter, that must assure you that I am, &c.

Jan. 29. 1663.

**ORINDA.**

**LETTER**



LETTER XLV.

**T**IS well you chide me so much for endeavouring to express a part of the Sense I have of your Obligations ; for while you go on in conferring them past all possibility of Acknowledgment, 'tis very convenient for me to be forbidden to attempt it. Your last Generosity in vindicating me for the unworthy Usage I have receiv'd from the Press at LONDON, as much transcends all your former Favours, as the Injury done me by that Printer and Publisher surpasses all the Troubles that to my Remembrance I ever had : All I can say to you

for it is only this, that you assert  
 the Cause of an innocent, tho'  
 a very unhappy Person, and that  
 'tis impossible for Malice it self  
 to have printed those Rhymes,  
 which you tell me are got A-  
 broad so impudently, with so  
 much Wrong and Abuse to them,  
 as the very Publication of them  
 at all, tho' never so correct, had  
 been to me, who never writ a  
 Line in my Life with Intention  
 to have it printed; and am truly  
 of my Lord FALKLAND's mind,  
 when he says,

— *He Danger fear'd than Cen-  
 sure less,  
 Nor could he dread a Breach like  
 to the Press.*

You know me, Sir, to have been  
 all

Orinda to Poliarchus. 229

all along sufficiently distrustful of whatever my own want of Company and better Employment, or the Commands of others have seduc'd me to write, and that I have rather endeavour'd never to have those Trifles seen at all, than that they should be expos'd to all the World in this impudent manner in which they now most unhappily are. But is there no Retreat can shield me from the Malice of this World? I thought that Rocks and Mountains might have hidden me, that 'twas free for all to beguile their Solitude with what harmless Thoughts they pleas'd, and that our Rivers, tho' they are babbling, would not have betray'd the Follies of impertinent Thoughts that were produc'd on their Banks. But I

am the only unfortunate Person who cannot so much as think in private, who must have all my Imaginations and idle Notions rifled and expos'd to play the Mountebanks and dance upon the Ropes to entertain the Rabble, to undergo all the Rail-lery of the Wits, and all the Severity of the Wise, to be the Sport of some that can, and Derision of others that cannot read a Verse. This is the most cruel Accident that could ever have befallen me, and has already made a proportionate Impression on me; for it has cost me a sharp Fit of Sickness since I heard it; and I believe would have been more fatal, but that I consider'd what a Champion I have in you, whose Credit in the



Orinda to Poliarchus. 231

the World will gain me a belie-  
f with all the better sort of  
Persons, that I am so innocent  
of that wretched Artifice of a  
secret Consent, of which I fear  
I am suspected, that whoever  
would have brought me those Co-  
pies corrected and amended, and  
a thousand Pounds to have bought  
my Permission to print them,  
should not have obtain'd it. You  
know too besides, that tho' there  
are many things in this villanous  
Impression, which the Ignorance of  
what occasion'd them, and the  
Falseness of the Copies may re-  
present very ridiculous and extra-  
vagant, yet I could give some  
account of them even to the se-  
verest CATO; and sure they  
must be more abus'd than I can  
believe it possible for them to be,

Q 4

(for

(for I have not yet seen the Book, nor can imagine what is in it) before they can be disguis'd in such a manner, as not to deserve the Character of these Lines of Sir EDWARD DERING in his Epilogue to POMPEY,

— No bolder Thought can  
tax

Those Rhymes of Blemish to the  
blushing Sex:

As chaste the Lines, as harmless  
is the Sence,

As the first Smiles of Infant In-  
nocence.

So that I hope there will be no  
need of justifying them to Vir-  
tue and Honour: And I am so  
little concern'd for the Reputa-  
tion of writing Sence, that pro-  
vided

Orinda to Poliarchus. 233

vided the World will believe me wholly innocent of the least Knowledge, much more of any Connivance at this Publication, I will willingly compound never to trouble them with the true Copies, which nevertheless you advise me to do; though if you still judge it absolutely necessary to the Reparation of this Misfortune, and to the general Satisfaction, and if, as you tell me, all the rest of my Friends will press me to it, I shall resolve upon it with the same Reluctancy that I would cut off a Limb to save my Life. However, I hope you will satisfy all your Acquaintance of my Aversion to it, and did they know me as well as you do, that Apology were very unnecessary; for I am so far from expecting Applause

plause on account of any thing I write, that I can scarce expect a Pardon: And sometimes I think that to make Verses is so much above my Reach, and a Diversion so unfit for the Sex to which I belong, that I am about to resolve against it for ever; and could I have recover'd those fugitive Papers that have escap'd my Hands, I had long since, I believe, made a Sacrifice of them all to the Flames: The truth is, I have always had an incorrigible Inclination to the Vanity of Rhyming, but intended the Effects of that Humour only for my own Amusement in a retir'd Life, and therefore did not so much resist it as a wiser Woman would have done: But some of my dearest and best Friends having found my  
Ballads



Orinda to Poliarchus. 235

Ballads (for they deserve no better  
a Name) they made me so much  
believe they did not dislike them,  
that I was betray'd to permit some  
Copies to be taken for their Di-  
version, but this with so little Con-  
cern for them, that I have lost  
most of the Originals, which I  
suppose to be the cause of my  
present Misfortune; for some in-  
fernal Spirits or other have catch'd  
those Rags of Paper, and what  
the careless blotted Writing kept  
them from understanding, they  
have supply'd by Conjecture, till  
they have at length put them into  
the Shape wherein you saw them,  
or else I know not which way 'tis  
possible for them to have been col-  
lected, and so abominably printed  
as I hear they are. I believe too  
there are some among them that  
are

are not mine, and thus I am not only injur'd in my own particular, but on the account likewise of those worthy Persons, who had then the ill luck to be of my Conversation, whose Names are without their leave expos'd in this Impression, so that there are but few things in the Power of Fortune that could have afflicted me more than this treacherous Accident. To conclude, I know you so much my Friend, that I need not ask your Pardon for making you this tedious Complaint, but I own 'tis a great Injustice to revenge my self thus on you for the Wrongs have been done me by others; and therefore will only tell you, that the sole Advantage I gain by this cruel News is, that it has convinc'd me by dear Experience, that no Adversity

Orinda to Poliarchus. 237

versity can shake the Constancy of  
your Friendship, and that in the  
worst Humour that ever I was in,  
I still am, &c.

Jan. 29. 1662.

ORINDA.

LETTER

## LETTER XLVI.

JUST now I receiv'd yours of the fifteenth, which brought me the welcome Assurance that you will still have me for your Valentine ; an Honour I am most unwilling ever to lose, but was forc'd this Year to trust it to the Capriciousness of Fortune, whom I invoc'd with so much Fervency, that once in my Life I found her in a good Humour ; for she gave me to draw your Name amongst a dozen. Our Company afterwards drew Motto's, and I happen'd on one that so well describ'd you, that I began to cry Fortune, Mercy, that I had ever call'd her blind : 'twas this, *he dances well, and fights well ;*



Orinda to Poliarchus. 239

*well*, I might well have added, *and obliges well too*; for certainly never Man did so more, or with a better Grace. But what Thanks shall I return you for the great Concern you take for my Interest, and for the Assurances you give of it in your Letters to ANTENOR and my self. He is resolv'd to put his Fortune to the Trial by following your Advice, and hastening me to LONDON, as soon as 'tis possible for him to accommodate me for the Journey. Next Post I will say more of it, mean while shall only tell you, that all your Persuasions would have been in vain, and could never have prevail'd with me to have undertaken that Attempt, were not the hopes I have of serving ANTENOR, and the pleasure I propose to my self in *conversing* with POLIARCHUS, the chief Motives that induce me to it.

I am

I am now at LANDSHIPPING, where there is a great deal of Company, who command my Attendance. I go home this Week, and then shall be more at leisure, to tell you many surprizing Adventures; but my time allowing me now to write but one Letter, 'twas not difficult for me to resolve to whom it should be; for my Inclinations as well as Obligations equally carry me to assure you that I am, &c.

Feb. 21.

ORINDA.

LETTER

LETTER XLVII.

**I** Told you from LANDSHIP-  
PING I would write won-  
drous Matters to you when I came  
home, and you may now justly  
expect, not only in Performance  
of that Promise, but in Return  
of your last obliging Letter, that  
I should say much more to you,  
than my present haste will al-  
low me to do: But when I have  
told you that this hurry is oc-  
casion'd by my beginning my Jour-  
ney to LONDON, I know you  
will the more easily forgive it,  
for you have too often discover'd  
a Willingness to be troubled with  
your Valentine's ill Company there,  
for me to suspect you will be  
sorry that the time now appoa-

R

ches

ches when you will once more be tormented with her impertinent Conversation. But to make you support it the better, let me assure you, that the next Satisfaction I propose to my self after the Hopes of doing something for ANTENOR's Service, is to enjoy the excellent Company of some very few Friends, among whom POLIARCHUS may be assur'd he holds the chiefest Rank. Nor could I have thus long deny'd my self the Happiness of his excellent Conversation, would I have listen'd to the Dictates of my own Desires, that continually prompted me to purchase it by a Forgetfulness of my Duty to ANTENOR. But had I done this, I had not only lost my own inward Content, but forfeited that Friendship I should indeed



Orinda to Poliarchus. 243

deed very little deserve, if I could have hop'd for it on such unworthy Terms. But ANTENOR is now so satisfy'd that my going may be for his Advantage, that he hastens me away as fast as he can, and I hope God will enable me to answer his Expectations, by making me an Instrument of doing him some handsome Service, which is the only Ambition I have in the World, and which I would purchase with the hazard of my Life. I am exceedingly oblig'd to my Lady CORK for remembering me with so much Indulgence, for her great desire to be troubled with my Company; but above all, for her Readiness to assist my Endeavours for ANTENOR, which is the most generous Kindness can be done me; and I will never abuse the Goodness of those that offer it,

by expecting or desiring any thing improper or unreasonable, and whereof I will not make you Judge and Confident, who have already engag'd your self to be an Assistant. I am call'd away, and can only assure you, that to make you the highest and truest Expression of my Esteem and Friendship, I profess that I am more indebted to you on the Score of your own Merit, than of my infinite Obligations to you, tho' the latter have such a Tye upon me, that nothing but the former can make a greater Impression on the Soul of, &c.

Cardigan Priory,  
Mar. 12. 1664.

O R I N D A.

LETTER

LETTER XLVIII.

**M**Y Brother has a very great Ambition to have so noble and worthy a Friend as your self responsible for the Christianity of a Son that God has bless'd him with since he saw you; but he is much out of countenance to desire this Favour of you; the more too, because his Wife's Fondness of his Name is so great, that she has engag'd him to call the Child by it. And it being also his Father's Name, it is thus become that of the Family. I have undertaken that you will pardon the rudeness of asking you to be Godfather without giving it your Name, which he and I would much rather do, were it not for an unavoidable Obligation

246 *Letters from, &c.*

to the contrary. If I am not mistaken in your Goodness, be pleas'd to come hither this Afternoon a little before three, where it will be privately christen'd, and where you shall find, &c.

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ORINDA,

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